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REPORTS

OF THE

INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES

TO

HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT,

FOR THE

HALF YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 1865.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1866.

(Part of Vol. 24, 1866)

REPORTS

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE GREY, BART.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

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HALF-YEARLY JOINT REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.

SIR,

*Factory Inspectors' Office,
Whitehall, February 16th, 1866.*

WE have the honour to present to you our Reports on the state of our respective districts.

We have held our statutory meeting in conformity with our usual custom, and have conferred upon several matters which we have brought under your notice, particularly those which relate to an uniform administration of the law of restriction to the various kinds of works to which legislation has hitherto been applied, as well as with reference to those to which it may be extended hereafter. We have pointed out the anomalies which must inevitably prevail whenever there is a want of uniformity in the hours of work ; and which are frequently the cause of just complaint, when such hours can be extended under special pleas, beyond the limit laid down in the Factories Act, as a first great principle.

We especially allude to the Print Works Act, the Lace Works Act, and the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Acts, as applicable not only to bleaching and dyeing, but to calendering and finishing, and the works mentioned in the 27 & 28 Vict. c. 98. We are firmly of opinion, and we believe that the evidence we have brought before you will show, that the Factories Act Extension Act, 1864, has been a success most encouraging for further legislation in the same direction ; and we trust that our Reports will be so satisfactory to you in this respect, that any doubts (if such there be) of the general applicability of this Act to

most, if not all, of the trades referred to by the Childrens' Employment Commissioners, will be removed.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

ALEX^r REDGRAVE.
ROBERT BAKER.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State
for the Home Department,
&c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX No. 1.

GENERAL ABSTRACT, showing the Total Number of Accidents reported to the Inspectors of Factories during the Six Months ended the 31st October 1865.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	11	4	6	-	4	-	21	4	25
Amputation of right hand or arm	7	1	5	2	1	1	13	4	17
Amputation of left hand or arm	4	2	1	2	1	-	6	4	10
Amputation of part of right hand	23	31	38	56	6	5	67	92	159
Amputation of part of left hand	19	20	22	32	6	3	47	55	102
Amputation of any part of leg or foot	3	1	1	1	-	-	4	2	6
Fracture of limbs and bones of trunk	37	16	35	16	9	3	81	35	116
Fracture of hand or foot	41	42	39	60	18	9	98	111	209
Injuries to head and face	15	38	28	28	12	6	55	72	127
Lacerations, contusions, and other injuries not enumerated above	311	284	407	352	99	49	817	685	1,502
Total -	471	439	582	549	256	76	1209	1064	2,273

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	5	1	1	-	-	1	6	2	8
Amputation of part of right hand	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	5	5
Amputation of part of left hand	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Fracture of limbs and bones of trunk	9	5	8	7	1	-	18	12	30
Fracture of hand or foot	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
Injuries to head and face	9	7	5	3	3	-	17	10	27
Lacerations, contusions, and other injuries not enumerated above	41	19	24	14	11	2	76	35	111
Total -	65	33	38	29	15	4	118	66	184

APPENDIX No. 2.

SUMMARY of the Total Number of Informations and Convictions, and the Amount of Penalties and Costs, in the Districts of the Inspectors, during the Six Months ended the 31st of October 1865.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE.	Number of Informations.	Result.				Penalties imposed.							
		Convictions.	Withdrawn on Payment of Costs.	Dismissed.		5s.	20s.	40s.	50s.	£3.	£4.	£5.	£10.
Neglecting to fence mill gearing	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Neglecting to fence mill gearing, whereby bodily injury was caused	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing children and young persons to work between the fixed and traversing parts of a self-acting machine whilst in motion	6	5	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Employing children and young persons without registering their names and date of first employment	96	50	45	1	—	7	39	—	—	3	—	1	—
Employing children and young persons without surgical certificates	95	51	43	1	—	7	35	—	—	5	—	1	—
Employing children before noon and after one o'clock p.m. of the same day	13	8	5	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employing children without school vouchers	46	26	10	10	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employing children, young persons, and females at night	13	5	8	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employing children, young persons, and women after six o'clock p.m.	143	87	53	3	—	65	16	—	—	3	3	—	—
Employing children, young persons, and women after seven o'clock p.m.	5	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employing young persons and women after two o'clock on Saturday	34	1	3	30	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Parents employing or conniving at the illegal employment of their children	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parents neglecting to cause their children to attend school	20	9	11	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neglecting to give notice of occupation	3	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not keeping a register	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not ventilating a factory	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carried forward													

Appendix No. 2—continued.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE.	Number of Informations.	Result.				Penalties imposed.							
		Convictions.	Withdrawn on Payment of Costs.	Dignified.		5s.	20s.	40s.	50s.	£3.	£4.	£5.	£10.
Brought forward -													
Not limewashing, as required by law -	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1
Not entering dates of holidays of limewashing in register -	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not hanging up abstract of Acts, notices of hours of work, meal times, &c. -	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Making false entries in the register of young persons -	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Willful obstruction of the sub-inspector in the execution of his office -	13	1	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total -	510	261	201	48	9	122	108	1	17	3	4	2	

The Total amount of Fines inflicted, £443 15s.

The Total amount of Costs, £315 5s. 10d.

REPORT of ALEXANDER REDGRAVE, Esq., Inspector of Factories, for the Half-Year ended the 31st October 1865.

SIR, *Factory Inspectors' Office, Whitehall,*

My visits during the half year have been to Manchester, Middleton, Mossley; Preston, Kirkham, Longridge, Leyland, Sabden, Whalley, Ribchester; Ashton-under-Lyne, Staleybridge, Glossop, Marple; Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Great Harwood, Enfield, Haslingden; Rochdale, Littleborough, Newchurch, Rawtenstall; Leeds, Beeston, Morley, Knottingley; Patelybridge, Mickley; Wakefield, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Birstal, Adwalton; Bradford.

The following is a list of the schools to which grants have been made with your sanction, since my last Report:—

				£
Waterfoot National School.	Rossendale	-	-	20
St. Margaret's	Ipswich	-	-	10
Tansley	Matlock	-	-	5
St. John's	Nottingham	-	-	5
Morley	Leeds	-	-	10
St. Mary's	Leeds	-	-	5
Elton	Bury	-	-	10
Castleton	Rochdale	-	-	10
Wardle	Rochdale	-	-	10
Whitworth	Rochdale	-	-	10
Ovenden's Cross	Halifax	-	-	10
St. James'	Bradford	-	-	10
St. Peter's	Oldham	-	-	10
Hurst	Ashton	-	-	5
Ryecroft British Schools	Ashton	-	-	10
Richmond Terrace Schools	Bradford	-	-	5
Hadfield Wesleyan School		-	-	10
St. George's National School	Dukinfield	-	-	10
St. Ann's Roman Catholic Schools	-	-	Ashton	-
				10
St. Patrick's	Bradford	-	-	10
				<hr/>
				£185
				<hr/>

In my Report for the half year ended the 31st October 1863 I mentioned the case of the Trades Lane Calendering Company of Dundee, against whom informations had been laid for having illegally employed certain young persons in their works. The company were convicted before the Justice of the Peace Court; but upon appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions, the Justices there quashed the convictions, on the

ground that the works of the Trades Lane Calendering Company were not subject to the regulations of the Factory Acts as embodied in the Bleaching Works Act of 1860.

This decision of the Court of Quarter Sessions was carried, by action of reduction, to the Court of Session, and on the 15th June 1865, the Lord Ordinary, Lord Kinloch, found "That the appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions taken by the Defenders was competently taken, and that the judgment pronounced by the Quarter Sessions on such competent appeal is not subject to the review of this Court."

Upon further appeal to the First Division of the Court judgment was pronounced on the 22nd December, and the decision of Lord Kinloch was confirmed; and the works of the Trades Lane Calendering Company at Dundee are now therefore decided not to be within the operation of the Factories and Bleachworks Acts.

The case is a very peculiar one, and of some importance, as, although it involves only a pure question of law as to the technical construction of an Act of Parliament, the question of law rests upon the decision of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and not upon the opinion of the Judges of a Superior Court.

The Trades Lane Calendering Company carry on the occupation of calenderers at Dundee. In certain processes in connexion with their occupation, they employ male young persons under 18 years of age, and they were, in common with all other calenderers in the United Kingdom, informed that their premises were placed under Factory restrictions by the 26th & 27th Vict. c. 38, which states that "Whereas it is expedient that the employment of women, young persons, and children in calendering works and finishing works should be regulated in the same manner as their employment is regulated in bleaching works and dyeing works by the provisions of the Act of the 23rd & 24th Vict. c. 78: And whereas such was the intention of Parliament in passing that Act: Be it therefore enacted," &c. "That the words bleaching works and dyeing works in the said recited Act shall be further understood to mean any building, buildings, or premises in which females, young persons, and children are employed, and in any part of which buildings or premises any process previous to packing is carried on in the occupation of calendering or finishing," &c.

The Trades Lane Company, however, employed certain of the "young persons" as late as nine o'clock at night, and they

were consequently proceeded against for such employment of their young persons.

The Trades Lane Calendering Company contended that, inasmuch as they only employed one of the classes of operatives mentioned in that section—"young persons"—their premises were not affected by the Act, as it was necessary, from the wording of the section, that all the three classes—viz. females, young persons, and children—must be employed simultaneously on the premises to bring the works under restrictions.

As this question had never been raised before, it was certainly desirable that an authoritative opinion should be obtained; and the Justices, in fixing the penalties, purposely awarded one fine exceeding 3*l*., in order to enable the defendants to appeal under sect. 69. of 7 Vict. c. 15,* and fixed other penalties at various sums under 3*l*.; the whole, however, amounting to 50*l*. Various technical objections were raised by the defendants in their appeal, as regarded the form adopted in the proceedings and the manner of awarding the penalties, which were given by the Judges in favour of the defendants. This decision, however, as to the form of the proceedings will only affect this case; for although the course followed was that which has been always adopted in proceedings in Scotland, we shall, after the decision of the Judges, assimilate the practice in Scotland to that of England.

The Lord President in delivering his judgment expressed his opinion that as this was a British statute, "it ought to be administered in the same way in both countries, because no principles of Scotch law come in here." The point has never been raised in England; but if the decision of the magistrates in Petty Sessions should be objected to by either party, the law of England fortunately gives a direct appeal to a full court at Westminster, and any question of doubt can be solved in a few months. The Lord President evidently felt how unsatisfactory the decision of the magistrates in Quarter Sessions was upon questions of merely legal construction. His Lordship said, "These statutes run into each other in such a way, he thought it would be some facility to country justices dealing with the whole of these Acts if there were some consolidating Act, for it very often happened with the statutes in this case, and also with fiscal or revenue statutes, that it was

* "And be it enacted, That no appeal shall be allowed against any conviction under this Act, except for an offence punishable at discretion by fine or imprisonment, or where the penalty awarded shall be more than three pounds."

“ very difficult to find out how many penalties could be “ manufactured out of one transgression.” This purely technical question as to the legal effect of certain words in an Act of Parliament cannot, unfortunately, be brought into such a position in Scotland that the opinion of the highest legal authorities can be obtained upon them, but remains upon the decision of a Court of Quarter Sessions, whose difficulty in dealing with the meaning of complicated statutes, such as the Factory Code now is, must be very great.

The Factories Act Extension Act, 1864, placed under Factory regulations, the following manufactures:—

The manufacture of earthenware,

„ lucifer matches,

„ percussion caps,

„ cartridges.

The employment of paper staining,

„ fustian cutting.

This Act having now been in operation for upwards of a year, I am able to report with great confidence upon the general success of that measure. I was greatly impressed, as I had the pleasure of reporting to you this time last year, with the cordiality exhibited by the manufacturers whose works were then first brought under inspection; and I attribute the success almost entirely to the masters, who have taken great pains, and have had many difficulties to contend with, in carrying out the Factory regulations.

I have felt, and in this I have been ably and consistently seconded by the members of my staff, the sub-inspectors who act under my instructions, that in the administration of a new law, imposing great restrictions upon the labour in establishments in which heretofore it has been the custom to work for very long hours, it was necessary to act with great forbearance where error has occurred, and to spare no time or trouble to explain and afford information in all cases.

In fact there is now hardly such a thing as opposition to the law. A manufacturer may be sometimes persistently negligent in carrying out the details of the Factory Act; and occasionally, but rarely, he may wilfully employ children or females overtime; but these occurrences are exceptional; and, looking at all the statutes which enjoin the performance of certain duties, I believe there are none in which there exists so little evasion as the various Factory Acts.

I have not had occasion to institute proceedings even in one case under the Act of 1864. Irregularities have occurred, and sometimes the hours of work have not been

quite according to law; but I have satisfied myself that the errors were not wilful or in a spirit of opposition, but arose more than anything from carelessness, and the absence of a sufficient appreciation of the necessity of a close observance of the various regulations.

It has always been used as an argument against legislative restrictions upon labour, that the restrictions placed a limit upon production, and undoubtedly, after the first Factory Act of 1833, some diminution of production was experienced, but in every instance since that date the restriction of the hours of labour in textile factories has not been followed by reduced production; for either by the adoption of improved machinery, or where more depends upon the operative, by his increased attention and activity, the loss has not been felt; but so great a spur has been given to making up the reduction in time, that the amount of goods produced has actually increased.

I have requested several of the principal manufacturers whose premises come under the Act of 1864 to favour me with their opinion upon this point, and generally with their experience of the effect of the restrictions, and although some express their opinion that certain processes have been retarded, their opinions, upon the whole, contain the strongest evidence of the great value of the legislative restrictions. The first letter which I shall quote is from Messrs. R. Cochran and Co., of the Britannia Pottery, Glasgow; it shows how completely difficulties (and there were undoubtedly serious difficulties to be contended with at first) have been overcome, and that those which still exist are to be surmounted.

"In answer to your letter we have pleasure in submitting to you what we consider to be the results of the application of the Factory Act to our trade. Not anticipating your inquiry, we cannot give any statistics, but the following are our general impressions on the subject.

"We confess that we were a little fearful at first of the effect of the Act, but so far we have got on wonderfully well, and are persuaded now that, notwithstanding a few sources of annoyance created by it, some of which are inseparable from any change whatever, the trade will ultimately be very largely benefited by it; as we fully anticipate that greater regularity will be promoted in the men, and that the greater age of the youths, from whom of course our tradesmen are drawn, will likely give us a better class.

"You may probably remember Mr. Cochran mentioning to you that our kilnmen emptied and filled an oven per day, and that as two boys attended the 16 men, this might interfere with the Saturday's kiln. This difficulty did occur, and even the

men expected to be paid in full, stopping at two o'clock, and leaving the kiln unfinished, which would have had the effect of depriving us each week of a day's work from the whole factory. After some trouble we arranged it, replacing the boys with labourers after two o'clock, and latterly we built an additional kiln; and as the men are usually finished for the day between four and five o'clock, by working a short time each evening at this extra kiln, they are now generally done before two on Saturdays.

"What has given us great annoyance is the diminished production of the working potters who employ boys. They are often now without them, because the size of boy they must have under the Act can easily obtain other employment;* and we believe either the men do not give them a sufficiently high pay, or from unsteadiness do not give them as regular employment as they can get elsewhere. It is a fact that the steady men are almost never idle for want of boys. But it is a matter of doubt whether, even with the inducement of sufficient wages, it may not still be difficult to procure boys, especially after we come under the 13 years regime; and this difficulty is all the more important, as only those who have been some time attending on the men are fitted to begin our apprenticeship to the trade.

"Another thing that has affected the production in this branch is the entire stoppage of over-time, which used to be regular, especially after the men had been drinking. This has not affected us much, as we regularly stopped the machinery before the Act came into operation, but the men used to make the boys prepare the stoves, clay, &c. during meal times and after hours, which has now of course ceased. If the men had zealously set themselves to remove these difficulties, attended regularly, and been sharp at the hours, we think they might to a great extent have kept up their quantity; but, as we have always found, it takes a very long time to get them to adapt themselves to any change, even when it is clearly advantageous to themselves.

"To keep up our quantity, we have gone extensively into machines wrought by unskilled labour, and every day convinces us that we can produce goods in greater quantity than by the old method.

"By the machine which we have for making 'bats,' we are now producing about 400 doz. plates daily, and the clay used for them does not require to be wedged by hand, but is simply put through a mill that we have for the purpose. Some months ago we set up a similar batting machine and mill at our old works,† with equally satisfactory results.

"We think that the effect of the Act will be to push on

*Messrs. Cochran state in illustration of this, that on one morning the foreman, after having selected the oldest boys who were applicants for employment, submitted seven to the examination of the certifying surgeon who rejected five, so that there were only two to supply the places of seven.

† Verieville Pottery, Glasgow.

further adoption of machinery ; and our opinion is, that in this respect the trade will gradually discover methods for adapting mechanical appliances to a very large proportion of the articles made. This is, to a certain extent, already seen in the large number of power jiggers now being put up in England, in place of those turned by boys, and which power jiggers are in pretty general use in Scotland.

" We have never turned away any men to make room for machinery, and we do not intend to interfere with their places so long as we get men to work at them, and should machinery become more general, we feel sure that the number of men employed in the trade will not be lessened thereby, but very probably increased.

" We are, &c.

" ROBERT COCHRAN & Co.

" P.S.—We have not tried the half-time system, and cannot say practically how it might suit."

The establishments of Messrs. Cochran are well conducted in every way. The Britannia Pottery is a new building, and the shops are all large, lofty, and airy, and very different from the ordinary run of potteries. The stoves are so arranged that there is a current right through them, which does not diminish the drying quality of the air ; for I believe it to be a fact that where there is a current of air through the stoves, and the air is changed, a less degree of heat is required to dry the plates, &c., and consequently there is a more economical consumption of fuel than when the goods are placed in a stove in which the air remains unchanged.

The heat of the stoves being diminished, all the work-people, and especially the children who are constantly in the stoves themselves, are employed in a much more healthy atmosphere, and naturally can then work better and quicker.

Another large firm in Glasgow have informed me that they " have not found any great difficulty in carrying out " the enactments except in *two particulars*."

The first, which they describe as " the most important of " all, and one that has done them great injury already, and " threatens to do much more," is the restriction of the age upon children who are qualified to work for full time. Children may now be employed for full time at 12 years of age, in another year they must be 13 before they can be so employed, and as there are so many occupations in Glasgow in which children are employed, the children who are refused work at a pottery find full time employment readily elsewhere ; and as the wages of children in potteries has not been high, there is now a scarcity of children who seek for work in potteries. The same firm state, " in some branches

“ of the trade, such as platemaking, bowlmaking, &c., the difficulty of getting boys of the requisite age is so great that men, rather than submit to the annoyance of insufficient assistance from this cause, are leaving for other employments and emigrating, and what is to be done when the full age of 13 comes into operation we hardly know. Machinery is coming into use as some relief, but even with that the labour of boys is indispensable.”

If no attempt be made to introduce the employment of halftimers into these works, I doubt not the pressure will be considerable when the full time age is 13 years; but I do not think that the plea of difficulty ought to be allowed to have any weight until the halftime system has been tried. I am free to state that the halftime system cannot be worked with the same facility in Scotland as in England, both on account of the ordinary meal hours and school hours differing so much in the two countries; but I am happy to state that a lucifer match manufacturer in Glasgow is now giving the halftime system a trial, and if he finds he can manage it, he will give employment to about 100 halftimers. I look to his success with great interest, for he will be the pioneer in Glasgow of a new order of things, and if others similarly situated to himself will adopt the system, they will be the means of rescuing some hundreds of children from idleness, ignorance, and vice.

The other of the two particulars to which objections have been raised, is that, it has been the custom to allow two hours for meals, and that under the Factory Act, if two hours are given for meals, there would be a loss of half an hour's work per day, and it is suggested that the hours of work should be from 6 a.m. to 6·30 p.m., in order to allow of two hours for meals. I can very well understand that the reduction of the meal times may not be well received by some of the operatives, and that they make their opinions heard, but the advantages of the present system are so great, that I am certain a little more experience will satisfy those who are at present opposed to it.

Mr. Maling of the Ford Pottery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has also expressed himself strongly in favour of the new Act. He says:—

“ I can only say that I am very glad the Factory Act has been introduced. I think it will much improve the respectability of the workmen. When children were allowed to work after 6 p.m., men when inclined to drink would do so on Monday and Tuesday, and would work their children half the nights of Wednesday and Thursday to make up their wages. They would also

employ children of any age they could get, and very frequently the children were much too young and overworked.

"We find no difficulty in keeping the Factory Regulations. At first we had a difficulty in preventing the machine made ware getting "too hard" during the dinner hour, but we obviate that now by putting our waggons out of the stove that are nearly dry before going to dinner.

"I am also glad that the women and children are not allowed to take their meals in the shop they work in, as every day there was mischief done at those times."

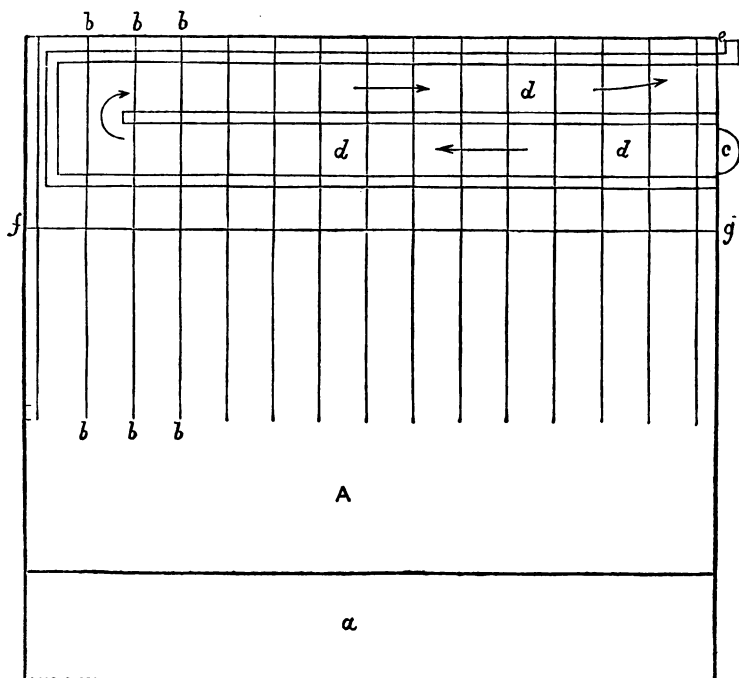
Mr. Maling thinks that a holiday on Good Friday is unnecessary in the trade, the men never work on the three first days of Easter week, and thus nearly a week is lost. Then there is a holiday of three days at Whitsuntide, and a week at the races, two days at Christmas, and the two first days of the new year. This is very different from the custom in most factory districts, but if the men would agree to take only two days as holidays in the Easter week instead of three they would be able to earn the same wages as before, and the work of the establishment would not be interfered with.

Regulations as to cleanliness and ventilation have always been carried out at Mr. Maling's. The premises were built six years ago, and ventilation was thoroughly provided for, and the shops are kept constantly swept and clean.

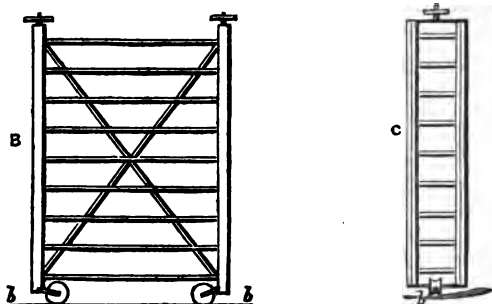
Mr. Maling has been at considerable trouble and expense to obviate the necessity of the children going into the stoves. The stoves are rooms, in the centre of which is an iron stove, frequently kept at red heat, and round the sides are ranged shelves for the reception of the wet plates, the plates remaining until they have acquired the requisite dryness when they are replaced by others. The work of a large number of children in a pottery consists in running with plates, &c. into the stove, placing them upon the shelves, and carrying out those which have become sufficiently dry. These stoves are sometimes heated to 130 degrees, and the youngest of the children are engaged for this occupation. It is of the highest importance therefore to the healthy development of hundreds of children that this injurious employment of children should cease as soon as possible. Mr. Maling has made certain alterations in his stoves by which it is unnecessary for any one to go into a heated atmosphere.

The "Stoves" as arranged by Mr. Maling, are entirely shut out from the shop in which the workmen are at work. He has been kind enough to place at my disposal drawings of his arrangements, which are here annexed. Instead of

there being a fireplace inside the "stove," the fireplace is outside, and the "stove" is heated by flues instead of by the direct heat from the fireplace. Iron rails are laid along the floor over the flues, and waggons fitted with trays for the reception of the plates, &c. run on these rails, being also guided by wheels running in grooves at the top of the framework into which the waggons run backwards and forwards over the flues and into the shop where the men and children work. According to the annexed wood-cut there would be 15 waggons in a shop. When all the waggons are filled and run up over the flues, the ends of each fitting close to each other, along the line *f g*, the whole of the heat is confined to the space above the flues: and when one is drawn out into the shop, the end also fits close, so that while the dried plates, &c. are removed and fresh plates are placed upon the trays, no one is ever required to go into the heated atmosphere as in the ordinary stoves.



- A. Ground plan of shop and stove.
 a. Workman's bench.
 b, b, b. Iron rails for waggons to run upon.
 c. Fireplace.
 d, d. Flues.
 e. Chimney.



B. Side.

C. End of waggon.

b, b, b. Iron rails for waggons to run upon.

Mr. Maling very fairly puts the advantages and disadvantages of his plan the one against the other. The advantages he states to be :—

- “1st. The workshop is kept very much cooler and more airy ; consequently the workpeople can do their work better.
- 2d. No coals being brought into the workshop the workshop is kept cleaner.
- 3d. The mould runner having no distance to go we are able to get more work done.
- 4th. In the same space, viz. 40 feet long, we had four stoves on the old principle which held 96 dozen moulds. Now we have in the waggons 170 dozen moulds. This is a great advantage where goods are made by machinery.”

The disadvantages Mr. Maling states to be :—

- “1st. The original cost is many times what would be the cost of stores on the old principle, as well as which, I expect it will be much more expensive to keep in repair.
- 2d. It can only be put up on the ground floor.”

The advantages will doubtless outweigh the disadvantages in an economical point of view, for, with the increased cleanliness and comfort of the shops, the operatives will be great gainers by this arrangement of Mr. Maling's stoves, not only in their being able to do more work and earn more money, but in their working in a well ventilated shop and a healthy atmosphere.

Messrs. Bell and Black, lucifer match manufacturers, of Stratford, have expressed themselves as well pleased with the effect of the Act in their works. I cannot call attention too frequently to the “dipping machine” used in their premises.

I described this machine in my Report dated 5th December 1864. The most unhealthy employment in the manufacture of lucifer matches was the dipping of the matches into the composition, which was warm, and from which a deleterious vapour rose under the face of the operative. By the use of this machine no fumes whatever can reach the operatives. The whole is encased within a partition of wood and glass; and as Messrs. Bell and Black still report that it gives great satisfaction, I see no reason why it should not be compulsory upon the manufacturers of lucifer matches to protect their operatives from the fumes of the phosphorous in the same manner as the occupier of a Textile Factory is required to protect his hands from the danger of working near revolving shafting and gearing.

Messrs. Bell and Black write to me as follows:—

“As far as our firm is concerned, the Act has not had a prejudicial effect, but the reverse, and we believe that our opinion of the working of the Act will be endorsed by all large manufacturers of matches.

“We have some difficulty in obtaining intelligent hands to work our machines.

“As to the saving of labour: in one department, previously to the introduction of our machines, we used to employ 230 young persons, whereas the same amount of work is now performed by 32 boys and girls from 14 to 17 years of age, earning from 11s. to 14s. per week, according to their aptitude and expertness.

“We are also happy to say that our dipping machine for the composition continues to give us and our workpeople great satisfaction, both as conducing to their health, as well as facilitating our manufacture and economizing material.

“We are now putting up a steam engine of 10-horse power, which we hope will further greatly tend in promoting the above objects.”

Messrs. Bryant and May, of the Fairfield Works, Bow, manufacturers of the safety matches, having adopted regulations very much in the nature of the Factory Regulations, experienced hardly any inconvenience. Their rooms are very lofty and airy, and the departments are well separated. They, however, find at present the regularity of the hours of work “awkward, from goods being at times in a state not “suitable to be left,” but I doubt not they will be able to provide against this effectually, as their factory is in all respects excellently conducted.

Messrs. Letchford, who also have large and excellent premises, and who take great interest in carrying out the provisions of the Factory Act, have given me the following

statement of their experience in adopting the Factory Regulations:—

“In reply to your inquiry as to how the operation of the Factory Act has affected us during the past year, we beg to state that we find no trouble with the ‘health’ and ‘age’ portions, though we do with the ‘hour’ part of the matter.

“First, respecting ‘health’: Our works being large and built purposely for the business, we have no difficulty in complying with all requirements for ventilation, cleanliness, and the division of our processes. All of which we view as necessities.

“Secondly as to ‘age’: Although we have to do without some girls formerly employed (in most cases younger sisters of others employed), they do not make a serious diminution. But,

“Thirdly, as to ‘hours’ we are troubled: It may appear strange that there is a season or busy time in match-making, but it is so, and every autumn during our 15 years’ experience of the trade the demand has been about 30 per cent. more than in summer. We have met this hitherto, after putting on all the hands we could get, by ‘overtime,’ during those months, working until 9 o’clock four days a week; but this season we have been obliged to refuse some orders, while all those on our books are considerably in arrears. The deficiency in our production, we presume, must be made up by importation, but had we been allowed we could have employed our people as stated, and as the work is not laborious they would have been very glad of it, for being of the poorest class our workrooms are more airy and comfortable than the hovels most of them live in.

“We cannot obtain hands enough at any time; but,

“We have not adopted any machinery to supply their place, as nothing really practical has presented itself.

“You may inquire why we do not in dull times prepare a stock for the busy time. There are two reasons: First, many of our hands go off in the summer to hop-picking and various summer occupations, so that our lessened production is usually consumed, but if not, then the bulky nature of a stock of matches would prevent any large storage, and the London makers are further trammelled with the Metropolitan Building Act, August ‘44, 7 & 8 Vict. c. 84, clause 54, which does not affect provincial makers.”

The proprietor of a large lucifer match factory in the country has referred to the being restricted from working overtime as having inconvenienced him very much. He says:—

“It has so happened that for the last six months we have been exceedingly busy, and, owing to the restrictions, quite unable to supply our customers without great delay, in some cases six weeks to two months, and which we could have met had we been at liberty to work from 6 to 8 o’clock in the evening, and we believe without detriment to anyone, but with considerable advantage to all round.”

I have deemed it right not to restrict my quotations from letters written to me to those paragraphs which express a favourable opinion of the Factory Acts, but to quote also the difficulties which the writers have experienced, and in giving publicity to these difficulties, there are none I believe will endure for any length of time. This last-mentioned inconvenience, that of not being able to complete orders within the heretofore usual time, is pressing equally upon all lucifer match makers. If the writers have been unable to work overtime, all other match makers are similarly restricted, and no individual hardship is inflicted, for the same regulations are in force in every match factory in the country. Precisely the same inconvenience has been felt more or less in all trades placed under the Factory Acts, but most manufacturers consider the uniformity of time, all work being restricted between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., as more than compensating for any inconvenience that might have been experienced from their not having been able to work overtime.

As respects the employment of paper staining, I am also enabled to report satisfactorily. I requested Mr. Henderson, sub-inspector at Blackburn, to obtain for me the opinion of the firm of Potter and Co., the paper stainers of Over Darwen, who have been for years advocates for the placing of their trade under the Factory Acts, and they have permitted me to make use of the opinions they held, after about a year's experience, of the working of the regulations. Mr. Henderson has given me the following statement, which he was authorized by Messrs. Potter and Co. to communicate to me:—

“When their works were first placed under the restraint imposed upon such establishments by the Act in question, a fear was entertained that their trade would suffer to some extent, as it was not unnaturally supposed that a curtailment of the hours of labour would lead to a diminished production of a proportionate amount; and as the winter months embrace the busiest season in the year in the paper-staining trade, the operation of the Act at Messrs. Potter's works has been with great care during the last six months. The result has proved an agreeable disappointment. There has been no decrease in the production, which has been fully maintained, and that without any additional hands having been employed.

“The manager at Messrs. Potter's is inclined to attribute much of this result to the fact, that as the Act provides for regular meal times for the children and young persons, and limits the hours of labour, the hands employed work with more energy and assiduity while they are at work than they did formerly when their hours were irregular and unrestricted.

"The principals express themselves generally as thoroughly satisfied with the operation of the Act, which need not interfere adversely with the interests of the trade, or of their establishment; and after the first week or two, when it was being introduced, they have been but little inconvenienced by it."

The other large establishment in my district is that of Messrs. Heywood, Higginbottom, Smith, and Co., of Manchester, and I placed Mr. Oram, sub-inspector of factories at Ashton-under-Lyne, in communication with them, in order to elicit their opinion of the working of the Act in their establishment. They kindly wrote to him the following letter:—

"The inconveniences we expected to arise from the introduction of the Factory Acts into our branch of manufacture, I am happy to say, have not arisen. We do not find the production at all interfered with; in short, we produce more in the same time, as the young folks are not so wearied out as formerly with the long hours. We must thank you for the assistance and advice you have so kindly rendered us on previous occasions, and we may say that the introduction of the Act hitherto has not given us any annoyance or cause of regret."

Paper staining in the metropolis is not carried on under the same conditions as in Lancashire. In that county the hours of work are generally Factory hours, *i.e.*, beginning at 6 a.m.; and one element of the Factory system, *viz.*, regularity of time, already existed when the Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864, came into operation; but in the metropolis, the workmen begun work when they pleased. As a rule they did not commence work before 7 a.m., and frequently not until 8 a.m., so that the change of hours, and regularity of time for the boys, has interfered more with the custom of the trade in the metropolis than in Lancashire.

There are two localities in my district in which fustian cutting is carried on extensively. The neighbourhood of Oldham, *viz.* Shaw and Royton, and in Manchester. The restrictions upon fustian cutting are more stringent than in any other occupation under the Factory Acts. In all other occupations children may be employed for half-time at eight years of age, and they continue upon half-time until they are thirteen; but in fustian cutting, in consequence of the severe nature of the work, children may not be employed at all until they are eleven years of age, and then for half-time until they are thirteen. The choice of labour has thus been greatly narrowed, and there must have been a reduction in the number of hands employed at first, but whatever may have

been the effects of the first introduction of the Factory Acts, they are now greatly appreciated by all classes employed in fustian cutting.

In Manchester the fustian cutting shops are nearly all very small places containing perhaps from 2 or 3 to 12 tables, but in the neighbourhood of Royton there are some large fustian cutting factories in which a considerable number of children were formerly employed, and I thought it very desirable to obtain the opinions of some of the principal of these fustian cutters, as there must have been a great change in some of their factories. The following statements have been made for me by the masters whose names head each paragraph :

Mr. Meanock of Gravelhole says :

"There is no doubt the Act has been a great benefit, and with factory hours the hands can cut as much as we require or ever did require them to do, for a hand was never asked to cut more than nine lengths a day. I am quite certain that the Act has raised the character of the trade. I would not have old times again. I have been kept until 10 or $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 o'clock of an evening formerly waiting for one or two cutters.

"The hands do not come early to work of a morning in consequence of there being no united action amongst the employers, and I am sure the hands would be happier and more content if punctuality could be enforced. The hands are more united now than they were formerly.

"All the children in the village used to be put to cutting in preference to nursing, as they could get a little more money, and the cause of the low prices formerly was the number of children employed in the trade.

"I can do best with those who have received some amount of education, as I can explain things better to them and they do not think they have been cheated, as they can examine the accounts for themselves.

"The hands work at so much in the shilling, and the payment to them increases in proportion to the payment to the master.

"The men can average 20s. per week, but they are so fond of drink, and they will drink when they have good wages. Those two frames with pieces of patent velvet in them uncut are waiting whilst the men have gone off drinking. One family here have repeatedly had five pounds per week between them, and yet you would scarcely give half a crown for any bed they have in their house.

"Mine is good work, and the women will get on the patent velveteen, when fully employed, 15s. per week on the average at least, and some of the women can get on the broad work 20s. during the week.

"The youngsters can get over 9s. if they work.

"This silk velvet we had 2s. 9d. for both before and during the war, and we now obtain 4s. 6d.

"This patent velvet was formerly as low as $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ and $1\frac{1}{2}d.$, but now it is $2\frac{1}{4}d.$ per yard.

" $\frac{3}{4}$ velveteens were formerly $1\frac{1}{4}d.$, now they are $2d.$ to $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard.

"The surgeon's fees is the greatest hardship under the Act.

Mr. Joseph Platt of Gravelhole says :

"Neither employers nor employed, not a single party I know of, would be without the Act on any account.

"It has been considered a loose kind of business, the hands going out when they like and coming in when they like, and there not being a surplus of hands we cannot enforce early hours, but we are all satisfied with the Act, you may depend on that.

"In Manchester the hands are not paid until they finish their piece, and consequently they try to finish it by the end of the week, but we pay them at the end of the week in this district for work done ; but if we could only introduce the practice of not paying until the piece was finished they would do more work.

"Cutters never worked on the average more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day.

"There have been no apprentices in this district. We engaged children formerly for a certain time to learn, and so far as the law went they could have left when they pleased, but they generally remained the time.

"Formerly when there were many children and young persons the masters bid against each other to keep the hands, and a piece similar to this 41-inch velvet has been cut as low as 13s. for 100 yards, and even as wide as 47 inches has been cut at the same figure, but now we get 26s."

Mr. Jas. Platt of Gravelhole says :

"I think the Act has been a decided improvement in the trade and works very well, better than I expected, although we were tired of working until 10 o'clock or so at night.

"The only thing I have to grumble with in the Act is the expense of having the hands certified every time they move to a new shop, instead of the surgeon being able to give a certificate which should pass at Meanock's or wherever the hand should be employed.

"I cannot get the women to work early in the morning. They seem to be content if they get a certain amount of money, and will not strive to obtain more, being content in many cases if they get 9s. or 10s.

"Good hands can get 13s. or 14s. or even 16s. per week comfortably in factory hours.

"There is a firm in another district that formerly paid children 2s. 6d. per week when there was nothing to do, and said he must have work at any price, and it was the system of children doing half, and I think three quarters of the work, that brought down the prices."

Mr. R. Shepherd of Royton :

"I am quite certain the Act has been an advantage and raised the trade in the social scale as it were. I quite approve of the Act, and the hands generally seem to like it very well.

"The only evil I see in the Act is the paying for certifying, which takes away the profit of that hand for the week; the continual changes amongst the younger hands rendering the payment of the certifying surgeon expensive.

"Formerly when work was scarce we had to keep all hands and get low prices for work, but now the working cutters have a list which we have to pay up to, and we only employ as many hands as we can find work for.

"We used to employ chiefly young persons and children, but now principally those above 17 years of age.

"Before the Act passed we employed the children who could get better wages than halftimers in the mill, but now we cannot. We used to pay them out of pocket in slack times to secure their services when trade was good.

"If the women attended punctually they could do as much work as ever they did, but they will come late, and then having to leave early, they do not do as much.

"The practice was formerly not to work Monday and part of Tuesday and fetch it up by late hours the latter part of the week, but by working Monday and Tuesday morning, the time is to some extent made up.

"The women will average 12s. per week, and will sometimes get 16s.

"The men will average about 15s. per week.

"During the panic that piece would have been 9s. I am now paid 15s., and before the American war I had 11s.

"This 41-inch slip velvet was as low as 10s., we now receive 21s. Before the American war we got about 14s.

"Owing to a scarcity of work, the trade only worked five days per week for five weeks, so as to keep up the prices, but we have now commenced to work six days again."

Mr. Thos. Shepherd of Royton, states:—

"The Act is a great benefit to the trade, both to workmen and masters. I never did so well in the trade as the last eight months. I am quite satisfied with the Act and thought it would work before it was passed.

"The hands know they have to give over and stick at it, although there are just odd ones we cannot rule, but generally the hands work better, and I think the Act is the best thing that has come to the trade for all parties.

"I find I can get as much work out of the hands as ever by being strict. We have still one or two stop away on the Monday, but I think we shall be able to break through that in time.

"The lowest velvets we are getting 12s. for now, and we did get as low as 6s., in consequence of the small hands having been put to it.

"Formerly so many children were employed that the large undertakers rather than be without work would take it any price. When prices were low, to keep the young hands together until trade revived I lost three pounds per week by taking orders at a low price. I had 6*s.*, and paid 5*s.* in addition to carriage 3*d.*, and fines for holes, damages, &c., and had to keep three foremen at 1*l.* per week each, but resolved never to do it again.

"This 41-inch double velvet we should have got 12*s.* per 100 yards for during the American war, and now we obtain 24*s.*

"Some women get 12*s.* or 13*s.* per week, but on an average about 10*s.* Young persons of 12 or 13 years of age can at the lowest get 8*s.*, and at some work 10*s.* per week."

There are some opinions expressed in the statements which, as containing the experience of practical men thoroughly understanding the subject of which they are speaking, are of very great value. Mr. Meanock of Gravel-hole, says :

"I can do best with those who have received some amount of education, as I can explain things better to them, and they do not think they have been cheated, as they can examine the accounts for themselves."

This is no theoretical opinion, but from a man who has to deal with both classes, those who have had instruction and those who have had none, and living in the heart of a factory district in which the half-time system has been the means of the education of thousands. He rejoices that his trade is now brought under the Factory Act, for he says : "I am certain that the Act has raised the character of the trade."

Mr. Joseph Platt says emphatically : "We are all satisfied with the Act, you may depend upon that."

Mr. Thos. Shepherd in the first paragraph of his statement remarks :

"The Act is a great benefit to the trade, both to the workmen and masters. I never did so well in the trade as the last eight months."

The prices for the work have been raised very much, and the rise, doubtless, has been influenced to some extent by the restriction of the hours of work and the limitation of the ages of the children. The earnings of a fustian cutter before the Act passed were the earnings of a child, as the child performed the same amount of daily labour as the adult; now, happily, the child is forbidden to work until fully equal to the employment, and the man earns a fair day's wage.

I requested Mr. Oswald, in whose subdivision Royton is situated, to give me any additional information he could with

reference to the condition of the fustian cutting trade. He states that "nearly the whole of the masters in my sub-division express themselves highly satisfied with the working of the Act. The only complaint I have heard is that it is not extended to families working in their own homes; they say that the children are compelled to work after they go home at six and are kept at work until late." And speaking of the state of wages, he expresses his opinion "that the wages have risen about 75 per cent., and, taking the whole of the district through, the average wages will be, when they work full time, nearly 13s. per week. The grown up hands can earn more, but they are so irregular and quite out of the control of the masters, that the children, who can be kept more regularly to work, can earn as much. One of the masters, alluding to the higher wages he has to pay his hands, said, 'for every shilling the Act has put into the pockets of the hands it has put two shillings in those of the masters.'"

It is a subject of complaint among the fustian cutters in all parts of my district that those who are employed in their own houses are exempt; and you were pleased to take the opinion of the law officers of the Crown for the guidance of the Inspectors, in order that there should be no doubt upon the question. The Act defines a fustian cutting factory, as follows:—

"Any place in which persons work for hire in the occupation of fustian cutting."

Now there are many places in which the only persons employed are the members of one family, the head of the family undertaking the cutting, and employing in his house members of his own family and paying them no wages, it being the custom of the trade for the younger members of the family not to receive wages, but giving their labour in exchange for board, lodging, and clothing, which they receive at home.

As such places are not within the meaning of the Act, the women and children are employed upon the old irregular system, and frequently late at night. But it was not contemplated when the Act was framed that children would have been employed all day in fustian cutting in some shop under the Factories Act, and then go home and keep on at the same labour for two or three hours, and I would recommend strongly that it should be made unlawful for a person after having been employed all day in any specified work, such as fustian cutting, to be employed in any other place whatever in the same kind of work after the legal hours.

Nothing has been more remarkable in the administration of the Act of 1864, than the readiness evinced by the smaller manufacturers to conform to its requirements. In large establishments managed by means of a well organized system, entailing some considerable expense, the details of the Factory regulations are carried out by those who are able, by reason of their education and training, to understand and act upon the regulations. But in small workshops, in which the master works at the trade in common with his "hands," sometimes having education barely sufficing to enable him to keep his books and accounts, and frequently altogether illiterate, I have found as much desire to carry out the law as in the best managed works. I anticipated considerable difficulty as to the limewashing of these small premises, but it has been done cheerfully, and the benefits of it, when done, have been readily acknowledged. The principal small workshops in my district are those of the fustian cutters and tobacco-pipe makers. Of the former there are a considerable number in Manchester. They hire rooms or cutting tables, generally at the top of the house, for the sake of the light. The shops are situated in some of the dirtiest parts of the town; and they presented, on the first visit, pictures of dirt and unwholesomeness that were principally suggestive of disease and poverty. The first recommendation made to them was to have the rooms thoroughly limewashed; and this was cheerfully complied with. The masters were urged to work regularly and legally; and I am bound to state that they have worked with exemplary regularity. I requested Mr. Oram, who inspects the Ancoats and Ardwick quarters of Manchester, to collect specially for me the opinions of some of the fustian cutters whose premises are under his superintendence. He has just completed his inspection, and reports that "there is a general feeling of satisfaction expressed by both masters and journeymen at the beneficial results of the Act in raising their condition."

I annex the individual opinions of several of the fustian cutters in Manchester, given as nearly as possible in their own words to Mr. Oram :

"A.B. states the Factory Act is one of the greatest blessings that ever came into the trade. Before the Act came in, there were places not limewashed for ten years, and the Act does good that way. I have had difficulty with some of the women, who would rather go about their business than keep the place clean. Women have done more than ever they did before, although the "old ones" will not adhere to the rule if possible. They used to work all hours, play Saturday, and be very good hands if they

came by dinner time on Monday, and then at the end of the week they would work late, fetching it up. I find the young ones do as they are told, but the old ones are, as it were, run wild, and do not know what to do with this tie upon them. They stop now sometimes on Saturday at twelve o'clock, and do not come until late on Monday morning."

"For the piece I am cutting (thickset cords) we have been paid as low as 8s. during the American war, but we are now getting 12s."

"C.D. states, I am certain the Factory Act is the best thing ever brought out for our business. I employ chiefly journeymen, and find the rule adopted by the trade for the men to cease work at 7 o'clock in the evening work well. Formerly the men would drink half the week, and make up lost time, but now, having to give up at 7 o'clock, they cannot do it. During the panic I received 3s. 6d. for a similar piece of cord to this, which I shall receive 5s. 6d. for, and the double Genoa cord which my daughter is cutting, I only received 3s. for during the panic, and now receive 5s."

"E.F. states, I find the women attend very regularly, and get through as much work as formerly, and the Factory laws act very well. It is a very good plan the men giving over at 7 o'clock and is very generally observed, although they do not do as much work as formerly, but the men like their beer, and it has not made them more steady as yet. During the war we received 1s. 9d. and 2s. for the piece of cord I am cutting, and we now get 3s. 4d."

"G.H. states, the women attend more regularly in consequence of the hours being shortened, and get through as much work as formerly, because they are more regular at their work. I find the men closing at 7 o'clock works well. On the general average they work on the Monday, where they did not before, as they cannot make up lost time. During the panic we were paid by the lump, now by the yard; and the piece which I then received 1s. 9d. for I am now paid 3s. 3d.; and the piece I then received 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. for, I now get 4s. 9d."

"H.I. states, the women do not attend regularly of a morning and do not get through so much work as formerly. Drinkers used to commence on Wednesday or Thursday, and work night and day to make up."

"During the war I had 4s. 3d. for what I now receive 6s. 11d."

"J.K. states, I am certain the Act works well. The dinner hour is an advantage, and the alteration in hours will prevent so many illegitimate children. The velvets we received 6s. and 6s. 6d. for during the war, we are now paid 13s. 6d., and had 12s. 6d. before the panic. Some velvets for which we were paid 6s. 6d. during the war, we now receive 15s. for, and formerly had 13s. The velveteen my journeyman is cutting, he had 8s. for during the war, and we are now paid 15s. 3d.; and the velveteens for which we received 9s. during the war, and 14s. before, we are

now paid 16s. 8d. for. They lumped them before, and now pay by the yard."

"L.M. states, I find that the women do not come early in the morning, having been accustomed to come late, and consequently do not get through so much work as before the Act passed. I like the Act very well myself, as it keeps things more regular and uniform, as young people cannot work until 10 and 12 o'clock, as formerly I know in some cases was done."

"N.O. states, the women having been used to waste Monday and Tuesday occasionally, they have not broken through it, and are unable to make it up by late hours as formerly, and therefore do not cut so many yards; but the wages being better, they get more money than formerly. I am sure the Act has worked well in the trade, and do not think anything could have been introduced to do so much good as it has done. It has done good to the trade in the eyes of the manufacturers. The irregularities have been established in the trade, and it will be another generation before altered. The piece I have been cutting would have been 3s. 6d. during the panic, but is now 5s. 4d."

"P.Q. states, things are working very well, and it is through the Factory Bill. If it was not for the Act the women would have to work very late the end of the week, and the women praise the Act. They attend more regularly than they did, and they do as much as formerly when the hours were irregular. I know it is a great improvement in our business. The piece in my frame was 8s. during the war, and now runs from 13s. to 14s., being an advance of 1s. or so on prices before the panic."

"R.S. states, formerly some of the houses would pay Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the hands would work Tuesday and Friday nights, and they worked all hours. Now more work on Monday than formerly they do not get through so much work; but the Act is beneficial. During the panic and slack times, we had 6s. for what we now receive 12s. The Act is raising the position of the trade, and the longer it lasts the better it will be. Formerly they were putting more hands to the trade than there was work for in slack times."

In nearly every establishment the first arrangement made by the proprietors was, to dispense with the youngest children, who would be required to attend school; and this they were able to do, as the full time age upon the introduction of the Act was reduced from 13 years of age to 11 years of age; but as the full time age is now 12, and will continue so until 1867, the difficulty of procuring a sufficient number of hands of the full age is greater, and I think after 1867, when the full time age will be 13 for all classes of works under inspection, that the employment of half-timers will become an absolute necessity, unless the introduction of machinery enable a manufacturer to do without children.

I cannot report, therefore, that the first effect of the Act has been to increase the number of school children; for there

being so many unrestricted labours, the children could find work immediately at a higher remuneration, but necessarily for longer hours, in such works. If the works affected by the Act of 1864 had been those in which restrictions were manifestly more needed than in any other, the masters would not have as much reason to complain of the very injurious effect the new regulations have had in driving from their works the youngest children to other and not less injurious works. It appears to me that this is a very strong reason why Parliament should consider, at an early period, the condition of other occupations in which young children are employed. The complaint has been made to me, over and over again, that at the present moment the younger children, *i.e.* those now and until 27 January 1867, under 12, have not benefited at all by the new regulations, as they are still employed for long hours, and at unhealthy occupations. It may be said that the masters ought to employ the younger children for half-time, and carry out the half-time system, and then they themselves would remedy this state of things. I constantly urge this, and in some cases where the masters employ and pay the children, the half-time system is in operation, because he has then full control and power over them; but where the men employ and pay the children, over whom they (the men) have hitherto had unlimited control, I doubt whether the half-time system can be put into operation until a deficient supply of young persons of full age force masters and men to co-operate with each other in carrying out the system. An earthenware manufacturer thus writes to me of the present effect of the restriction upon juvenile labour in his works, and as they are situated in the immediate vicinity of other works, he has, I have no doubt, had many serious difficulties to contend with:—

“Ever since you called upon me to introduce to us the rules and regulations of the Factory Act I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to carry it out; and which Act, I think, was necessary for juvenile and female labour. But by its adoption I have suffered greatly, not having done more than two thirds of the work I did before its adoption; and I am at the present time nearly at a stand still; because men will not do the work that was formerly done by juveniles, and the very children that the Act wisely prohibits us from employing are taken by the glassworks and ironfoundries, whose employments are at irregular hours, both day and night, and far more detrimental to health and morality than the earthenware trade; and on those grounds it seems and really is a very great hardship and an injustice to us. I am not asking for a repeal of the Act, nor do I think it wrong. What I am wishful to lay before you, the inspector, is a great

grievance that presses unfairly upon us. Hoping that you will give this letter your kind attention, and should you think it worth a reply, it would be esteemed a favour."

A lucifer match manufacturer, who was anxious to employ half-timers, opened a school expressly for those employed in his works, and endeavoured to carry out the half-time system, but he has been obliged to discharge the children, and to give up the attempt, at any rate for the present; and he assigns the reasons for the failure as follows:—

"We tried the school system, and had a nice room fitted up on the premises, but, owing to want of inclination and ignorance of the benefits intended, the boys were frequently missing, incurring the stoppage back of their earnings according to the Act, which rendered their actual receipts so small that they staid away altogether, and we had to give up the school, and take older children, which is a great disadvantage to us, as they are difficult to procure, besides being more expensive than is needful * * * Our hands are different to those employed in mills, where the children often go with their parents to work, and they can look after them; whereas ours are left to themselves, and will not come under (what to them appear) difficulties."

"Want of inclination" and "ignorance of the benefits intended" are the chief causes of failure wherever the half-time system has not succeeded. The manufacturer is to a great extent in the hands of parents, for he cannot employ the children unless they attend school, and the parents who ought to keep their children at school regularly are too frequently the first to retain them at home upon the most trivial excuses.

In very many towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire the school attendance of the children employed in Factories is remarkable; scarcely a day is ever missed, and the attendance is no less punctual than regular. But this has been the work of years; it was not so at first; and I think, in the course of a year or two, when the Factory regulations shall have been extended to other trades, that there will be a much more general adoption of the half-time system.

When the Factory regulations are first put into operation in any trade, the adoption of the half-time system reduces to about one-half the wages of the children heretofore working full time, and parents object to their children working at such reduced wages, when there are other occupations at which higher wages can be obtained. After all, it is the money question which prevails in the end. If no child under 13 could be legally employed in any occupation except for half time, there would be a large number employed in all classes of works, but so long as high wages

can be had for long hours in some trades, and half wages only for half time in others, so long will parents make the most of their children's labour.

The power conferred by the Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864, upon the owners of the establishments affected by it to frame special rules for the better ventilation and cleanliness of their works, which rules, when approved by the Secretary of State, would be obligatory upon the workmen, has not been generally adopted in my district. Only three manufacturers have submitted special rules, and these were approved by you in due course, being, with some modifications, similar to the "Draft Rules" which I issued with your sanction for the purpose of informing the manufacturers of the nature of the rules of which you would approve. But many of the manufacturers in my district have, since the introduction of the Factory Regulations, laid down their own rules for the improvement of the ventilation and cleanliness which were never thought of before the passing of the Act. In these questions there is a great amount of prejudice to contend with amongst the operatives; they have been accustomed to work in close shops and to fill up every aperture for fear of a draught of air, and they used to object to any opening in their dread of a current; and with respect to the sweeping, &c., that was not done, as it occupied a certain amount of time. These prejudices are, however, gradually giving way, and, as the masters have the support of the inspectors in pointing out that cleanliness and proper ventilation must be observed, improvement is manifest, and the men frequently admit that they are better in health and work with more comfort than formerly. Mr. Rickards, the sub-inspector for Leeds, Newcastle, Sunderland, &c., informs me that there has been a very great improvement in the ventilation and cleanliness of the earthenware works in his subdivision. He says: "I found it necessary to make some suggestions for the improvement of the ventilation which have been most readily carried out at the principal firms; they provide for the cleanliness of their premises by a system of routine adopted by each firm. I have found many instances of refusal on the part of the workpeople to avail themselves of the benefits of the ventilation, but I hope in time they will show less opposition on this point."

Mr. Oram, writing to me of the condition of the small fustian cutting shops in Manchester, says:

"Although the garrets are not all of them in the state that could be desired for cleanliness, there has been such a manifest improvement, as to show the value of the sanitary clauses of the

Act; and there is every reason to believe that the places will improve in cleanliness and order in a degree corresponding with the improvement in trade."

There is, however, considerable difficulty in securing proper ventilation in fustian cutting shops: for there is so much heavy material brushed from the goods which will not float away, that a system of ventilation which may provide for changes of atmosphere is of no use in clearing the room of this heavy dust. Mr. Oswald thus describes a shop which he recently visited. "I went into ——— where silks
" are principally cut, in which the dust from the lime and
" fibre was so great, that I could not see the cutters at the
" far end of the room. I noticed that the hands generally
" had their mouths tied up while carding the pieces. The
" dust and fibre are so heavy that there is not sufficient
" draught in the ventilators which have been put up to
" take them out."

One of the fustian cutters told Mr. Oswald "that the only
" way he saw to avoid the dust would be to *card* the pieces
" before they went into the cutting room, and he is of
" opinion that could be easily done in all large shops. The
" wages of a man would be about 20s., and he could card
" enough to keep 40 cutters at work." Another master, however, said, "that he had tried this plan, but he did not
" consider it would do, as it spoilt some classes of goods,
" and he is of opinion, that nothing can be done to ventilate
" the shops."

The last-mentioned person has been at some expense to ventilate his shop, but I cannot admit that "nothing can be
" done." If it is necessary, and no other way suggests itself to the fustian cutters, it will be necessary for the carding to be done in a room by itself, for the state of many of these shops is at times very unhealthy, from the clouds of dust which rise from the carding of the goods. I have thought it advisable however to call the attention of the masters to the necessity for improving the condition of their shops, and as experience is gained as to the best way of clearing the atmosphere, I shall be able to recommend specific plans for the purpose.

I have preferred, in reporting to you the very satisfactory condition of my district, to show from the evidence of those persons whose arrangements have been altered, whose choice of labour has been in some respects narrowed, and who, where they did exist, were the sufferers from difficulties, what a year's experience of Factory Regulations has been, rather than to give you results solely from my own ex-

perience and that of the sub-inspectors. It is impossible that there should have been more correctness, more straightforwardness, or more co-operation than my staff and I have experienced in our intercourse with the 1,400 firms whose works were brought under our inspection by the Act of 1864. It is abundantly acknowledged that the utmost benefit must result to the operatives. Clean workshops, better ventilated rooms, regular work, must conduce to the welfare of the operative. A limit being put to child labour, the physical condition of a generation will in many localities be improved, and when other trades shall have been included, and the demand for labour necessitate the employment of half-timers, the blessings of moral training will be superadded.

The Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864, has been drawn upon a much better principle than any of the Acts since 7 Vict. c. 15, which was passed in 1844.

The first Act for restricting labour, which was passed after the 7 Vict. 15, was the Printworks Act (in 1845). By this Act, the faultiness of which has been often exposed by the inspectors, very many modifications of the Factory Regulations were permitted, so that in point of fact the Printworks Act is now of very little value at all. If the trade had peculiarities which required consideration upon the introduction of restrictions it was perfectly right that modifications should have been permitted; but as the grounds upon which the alterations were made are the same in bleach and dye works as in printworks, and as only one modification was allowed in bleach and dye works, it is an anomaly that the children employed in printworks should be deprived of the half-time education which is now common to all employments under the Factory Acts, and that the labour of young persons and females should be practically unrestricted in printworks.

The next series of Acts was the Bleach and Dye Works Act, passed in 1860 and 1863. These Acts, upon the plea of the peculiarities of the trade, permit the employment of females and young persons for overtime upon a system to which there is no real check.

Again, in the Lace Factories Act, there is a provision for permitting certain youths to be employed in the night.

The above departures from the Factory Regulations as laid down in 3 & 4 Wm. 4. c. 103 and 7 Vict. c. 15 are permanent, and I believe that investigation would now prove that they are no longer required. There are no permanent modifications in the Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864, and I am satisfied that the reduction of the hours of work to one

uniform time through all these trades is a great benefit to all. The evidence I have quoted from the paper-staining works of Messrs. Potter of Darwen and of Messrs. Heywood of Manchester, pp. 21, 22, shows that in a trade precisely similar to that of calico printing there is in reality no difficulty in at once adopting factory hours, but that advantages are also to be derived from the change. It is greatly to be wished that this question of assimilating the regulations in all trades could receive an early settlement.

When I was in Bradford (in October last) I had some conversation with Mr. Poppleton, the certifying surgeon for the town, upon the subject of the physical condition of the Factory operatives as compared with that of other operatives. Mr. Poppleton examines weekly more children and young persons than any other certifying surgeon in my district, and from his long experience and his judgment is well entitled to form a sound opinion. I asked him to give me, in writing, the result of his observations during the year; for he had paid much attention to the effect of employment upon health, as evidenced by the condition of the young persons brought before him in the Factories, and he has sent me a very interesting report. He says:—

“There has been a very large increase in the number of hands presented to me for examination during the past year.

“Several causes have been at work to produce this change; the principal one, in my opinion, being the large number who have left other employments for Factory labour, such as machine makers, ironfounders, colliers, brickmakers, and trades requiring greater physical exertion than Factory labour, or such as are exposed to more danger and discomfort. Another cause may have been that the heated state of the rooms in Factories during the past summer has made the hands restless and indisposed to work the whole week, the high rate of wages enabling them to be careless in this matter. With regard to the hands introduced from other employments, by far the greater number come from machine shops, ironfoundries, and collieries.

“I am happy to be able to report on the improved physical appearance of our Factory people. Since hand-combing was removed from the dwellings of the operatives, their children have increased in health and size, and more especially so since good trade has raised the price of labour to a height never before known. They now surpass in appearance most other operatives, and are especially superior to workers in iron.

“All the children presented to me who have worked in machine shops or foundries are exceedingly pale, diminutive, and most pitiable looking objects, and altogether unfit for continuous work. The physical appearance of the collier is superior to that of the worker in iron, but the countenance of the latter is very expressive of the condition of mind which may be expected from the nature of the occupation.”

Since sending me that Report, Mr. Poppleton has given me the following account as an instance of what comes before him, and upon which his opinions as above expressed are founded:—

“Yesterday I was at Messrs. ———, and on a batch of hands coming before me I selected one who appeared under age. On asking him where he worked last, his reply was that it was at a machine shop. I remarked that his appearance would make one believe that he had worked in the pit. The lad at once replied that before the machine shop he had been a collier for three years, and that he was sure he was 15 years old.* So certainly do these employments stamp their effects on our young people.

“There was a few days ago a severe accident from a machine shop of a child about 10, and he told us that he never worked less than from 6 to 6, and sometimes till 9 p.m. The physical exertion of these children is as great as the men.”

This contrast of the effects of labour in iron works, as compared with the results of factory labour, which is under due restrictions, is very important at the present time when so much attention is turned to the condition of persons employed in the metal manufacturing districts. The half-time system has been in existence at Bradford for years, several firms employing as many as 200 halftimers, some even as many as 400 and 500, and no town contains a better opportunity for the contrast between restricted and unrestricted labour than Bradford.

In every part of my district there is a scarcity of hands, and partial strikes are taking place in separate departments in the mills. The certifying surgeons inform me that they are called upon to examine an increasing number of children and young persons desirous of obtaining factory employment, and a very large number of those presenting themselves are rejected as being under the prescribed ages. It is at a period like this, when the demand for labour is so active and the price of labour is so high, that the services of the certifying surgeons are of most value; for unless there were some certain check to the employment of children of tender age, who would be unequal to the work, a serious injury would be inflicted upon the young in a manufacturing district. It appears from the present scarcity of labour that if all the existing factories are to run full time, there must be some great improvements in machinery, or the rate of wages must rise considerably higher than it is at present. In fact this is beginning to be felt severely in some places, and the intro-

* From his appearance, Mr. Poppleton did not consider him to be of the full-time age of 13.

duction of machinery is progressing. A manufacturer writes to me: "Had we not latterly introduced a large amount of machinery to substitute for hand labour, we should have been in serious difficulty," and a short time since speaking with an eminent manufacturer upon this subject, he quoted two instances in his own works that had occurred within a week, showing how rapidly the wages were advancing. One application was from the woolsorters, who applied for an increase of 3s. and 2s. per pack. They founded their claims upon the increased price of provisions, clothing, rent, &c., and they added: "If you direct your attention to the general advance in wages of other branches of labour, you will find that we are not sufficiently remunerated to maintain that social position in society we heretofore have done." The second application was from the warp twisters, who in seeking an advance concluded with the following N.B.: "We expect a satisfactory answer to this on or before the 18th instant (two days after the date of the application), or else you must look out for some fresh men, for we shall do no longer, except you will give it us." The great increase in wages has also had an effect upon the supply of labour by rendering some classes of operatives independent of their children's earnings, who are consequently not sent into factories at so early an age as formerly. Mr. Poppleton of Bradford has observed this, and he attributes some portion of the diminished production of goods to this cause; he says upon this subject:—

"I have also to report on the great scarcity of hands during the past nine months, caused in some measure by the parents withdrawing their children altogether from work. This remark applies to the better class of factory operatives, the high rate of wages which they have at command enabling them to dispense with their children's earnings (once so important to them), and to send those children continuously to school. This scarcity of hands has led to the stoppage of so much machinery as to diminish by one fifth or one sixth the production of the manufactured goods.

"Night work has been more common during the past year than it has ever been since the passing of the Factory Act; and owing to the scarcity of hands, masters have been glad to employ for nightwork young men who can command from 17s. to 20s. per week, instead of the ordinary piecers from 7s. to 9s. per week."

The great number of works brought under inspection by the Acts of 1864 rendered it necessary for me to re-arrange the sub-inspectorships of my district; and in the beginning of the year 1865 I had the arrangements completed, and the

new sub-inspectors settled to their work. The present distribution of my district is as follows :—

Name.	Head quarters.	District.
Mr. Trimmer	Metropolis	Metropolitan Counties, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Sussex.
Mr. Ewings	Preston	Preston, Chorley, Clitheroe, Lancaster, North Lancashire, Cumberland, and Westmoreland.
Mr. Walker	Dundee	Northern and Eastern Counties of Scotland.
Mr. Patrick	Rawtenstall	The towns and neighbourhoods of Rochdale, Newchurch, Rawtenstall, Middleton, and part of West Riding of York.
Mr. Coles	Manchester	Part of Manchester, Newton Heath, Harpurhey, Salford, Pendleton, Bury.
Mr. Campbell	Glasgow	South-western and Western Counties of Scotland.
Mr. Rickards	Leeds	The towns and neighbourhoods of Leeds, Shipley, Bingley, Keighley, with the East Riding and part of North Riding of York, Durham, and Northumberland.
Mr. Whympster	Nottingham	The counties of Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln, with Sheffield.
Mr. Oram	Ashton-under-Lyne	Part of Manchester, Ashton, Staleybridge, Glossop, Hayfield, and Matlock.
Mr. Henderson	Blackburn	The towns and neighbourhoods of Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Haslingden, Bacup, Heywood.
Mr. Measor	Bradford	The towns and neighbourhoods of Bradford, Harworth, Wakefield, Horbury, Ossett, Dewsbury, Batley, Birstal, Cleckheaton, Liversedge, Heckmondwike.
Mr. Lakeman	Halifax	The towns and neighbourhoods of Halifax, Elland, Stainland, Sowerby Bridge, Ripponden, Warley, Soyland, Hebdenbridge, Todmorden.
Mr. Beadon	Huddersfield	The towns and neighbourhoods of Huddersfield, Honley, Meltham, Holmfirth, Saddleworth.
Mr. Oswald	Oldham	Oldham, Mossley, Lees, Shaw, and Royton.

I cannot conclude my Report without bearing my warm testimony to the value of the services of these gentlemen. They have been assiduous and active in the performance of their duties and have visited their subdivisions with great care and punctuality, with the exception of Mr. Measor, whose health has interfered with the regularity of his visits and the amount of work done.

Their duties have become more onerous than formerly. Much greater application is requisite to enable them to become thoroughly conversant with the laws they have to administer; and the inspection of factories, printworks, bleach and dye-works, lace factories, potteries, lucifer-match factories, fustian cutting shops, and paper-staining works, in which a variety of regulations is applicable, requires more than ordinary care to keep clear of error. In all their duties they have proved themselves careful and painstaking administrators, and they have always held themselves ready to undertake extra labour in the fulfilment of their office.

I have, &c.

ALEXR. REDGRAVE.

To the Right Hon.

Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURN of PROSECUTIONS for OFFENCES against the FACTORIES, &c. ACTS, in the DISTRICT of ALEXANDER REDGRAVE, Esq., during the Six Months ended 1st October 1865.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.						
Aug. 6	Francis Rawlinson, hemp-spinner, Liverpool.	Before Geo. Gladstone and Willm. Dixon, Esqrs., Police Office, Liverpool.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Ewings.</i> Employing five females until 8 o'clock at night -	£ s. d. 5 0 0	£ s. d. 1 2 6	
"	"	"	Employing a female after 6 o'clock in the evening	-	0 4 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
Sept. 26	Fredk. Craven, Agecroft Printworks, Pendlebury.	Before H. L. Trafford, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, New Bailey, Salford.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Coles.</i> Employing three children without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	} 3 7 6	
"	"	"	Employing three children without school certificates.	3 0 0		
Oct. 23	Messrs. Henry Joseph Nicholson & Co., Hostlers, Nottingham.	Willm. Pegg and Willm. Parsons, Esqrs., Police Office, Nottingham.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Whympere.</i> Employing ten females after 6 at night -	1 0 0	2 0 6	Nine cases were withdrawn on payment of the costs.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1895.						
Aug. 24	F. Hebden, York	The Lord Mayor and R. Evans, Esq., at the Guildhall, York.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Richards.</i> Employing one child without surgical certificate -	£ s. d. 2 0 0	£ s. d. 2	
"	"	"	Employing the same without school certificate -	-	1 9 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing the same without being registered -	-	-	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing one young person without surgical certificate -	-	-	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 26	J. Holroyd, Leeds	The Mayor and R. Tennant, Esq., Town Hall, Leeds.	Employing two young persons after 6 p.m. -	2 0 0	1 3 0	
Sept. 20	Brookbank Brothers, Dowley Gap, Bingley.	Wm. B. Ferrand and John Briggs, Esq., Court House, Bingley.	Employing one child without being certified -	2 0 0	-	
"	"	"	Employing same child without being registered -	-	1 18 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing same child without school certificate -	-	-	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing same both before noon and after 1 p.m. -	-	-	Withdrawn on payment of costs.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Aug. 21	Jonathan Bradbury, Stalybridge.	J. Sidebottom (Mayor) and R. Ridgway, Esqrs., Petty Sessions, Staly- bridge.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. R. E. S. Oram.</i> Allowing a child to work between the fired and traversing part of a self-acting mule whilst the latter was in motion.	1 0 0	0 14 6	Fine not paid. Im- prisoned for 14 days.
Oct. 30	William Dearden, Stalybridge.	J. Sidebottom (Mayor), J. Thackeray, and Wm. Milburn, Esqrs., Petty Sessions, Stalybridge.	Allowing a child to work between the fired and traversing part of a self-acting mule whilst the latter was in motion.	1 0 0	0 8 0	
"	William Sweatman, Dukinfield.	" "	Allowing a child to work between the fired and traversing part of a self-acting mule whilst the latter was in motion.	1 0 0	0 12 0	
May 10	Messrs. Mercer Bros. & Co., manufac- turers, Great Har- wood.	J. Butler Bowdon and Wm. Pilkington, Esqrs., Petty Sessions, Black- burn.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Henderson.</i> Employing five females after 6 in the evening	5 0 0	3 8 0	
"	Mr. Jas. Walmesley, cotton manufac- turer, Great Har- wood.	" "	Employing a child without a certificate of school attendance.	1 0 0	0 13 0	
"	John Parsons, opera- tive, Great Har- wood.	" "	Allowing his child to be employed without sending him to school.	0 5 0	0 10 0	

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1886. May 18	Messrs. Livesey and Raylinson, manufacturers, Over Darwen.	Richd. Eccles and Jas. Shorrocks, Esqrs., Petty Sessions, Over Darwen.	Employing a child without a certificate of school attendance.	£ s. d. 1 0 0	£ s. d. 0 13 0	
"	"	"	Employing same child without having registered his name.	2 0 0	0 13 0	
"	Jas. Aspiden, warehouseman, Over Darwen.	"	Obstructing the Sub-Inspector in the discharge of his duty.	-	0 19 0	Charge withdrawn on Defendant pleading guilty, and consenting to pay costs.
"	Roger Townley, operative, Over Darwen.	"	Allowing his child to be employed without sending him to school.	0 5 0	0 11 0	
July 27	J. Pickering, overlooker, Over Darwen.	The Rev. Philip Graham and Jas. Shorrocks, Esq., Petty Sessions, Over Darwen.	Allowing his child to be employed without sending him to school.	0 5 0	0 17 0	
Aug. 3	The Roe Greave Cotton Co., Oswaldtwistle.	Jas. Worsley and Josh. Ingham, Esqrs., Petty Sessions, Accrington.	Employing two children without certificates of school attendance.	1 0 0	1 2 6	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 24	Messrs. Smith and Brooks, Winders, Heywood.	Robt. T. Heap and Rd. Kay, Esqrs., Petty Sessions, Heywood.	Employing one young person and one child without having registered their names.	2 0 0	1 13 0	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing one young person and one child without surgical certificates.	-	1 7 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued,

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costa.	REMARKS.
1865.						
Aug. 30	Messrs. Saml. Howarth and Bros., Cotton Spinners, Stacksteads.	Geo. Hargreaves, Jno. Dawson, and Jno. Aitken, Esqrs., Petty Sessions, Bacup.	Employing a girl as a young person without having registered her name.	£ s. d. 2 0 0	£ s. d. 0 12 6	
"	"	"	Employing same girl without a surgical certificate.	-	0 7 6	Withdrawn on payment of costa.
July 3	J. Northrop, Shawl Manufacturer, Thornton.	Josh. Pollard Wm. Walker, and Wm. Rand, Esqrs., Court House, Bradford.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Measor.</i> Employing ten children without certificates of their school attendance for the previous week.	-	5 15 6	Dismissed.
Sept. 21	Oakes Ingham, Valley Dyeworks, Bradford.	Joshua Pollard, Esq., and Major Wood, Court House, Bradford.	Employing three young persons without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	1 1 0	
"	"	"	Employing the same without being registered	6 0 0	2 1 0	
"	"	"	Employing a child without surgical certificate	2 0 0	0 7 6	
"	"	"	Employing the same without school certificate	1 0 0	0 7 6	
"	"	"	Employing the same before 12 (noon) and after 1 p.m.	1 0 0	0 7 6	
"	"	"	Neglecting to limewash the premises	3 0 0	0 7 6	

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Sept. 23	Saml. Cunliffe Yister, Canal Works, Bradford.	Chas. Lemon, Esq., Mayor, and Aldermen Brown, Farrar, and Light, Court House, Bradford.	Employing five boys under 13 after 6 o'clock in the evening.	12 0 0	- - -	Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Oct. 19	Thos. Kay & Co., Ebenezer Mill, Gordon Street, Bradford.	T. Horsfall and W. Peel, Esqrs., Cent. Pollard, and Major Wood, Court House, Bradford.	Employing seven young persons without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	3 0 0	Four cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing the same without being registered	6 0 0	2 4 6	Four cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
July 8	Jno. Law and Sons, Brigcroyd Mill, Greetland.	Jno. Waterhouse, Wm. Hy. Rawson, Evans, Chas. Sutherland Walker, Robt. Stansfield, Esqrs., Halifax.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Lakeman.</i> Wilfully making a false entry in the register of young persons.	10 0 0	0 7 6	
"	"	"	Employing four young persons without surgical certificates.	12 0 0	3 4 0	Costs ordered to be deducted from penalty.
"	"	"	Employing two young persons without registering their names.	6 0 0	1 12 0	Costs ordered to be deducted from penalty.
Aug. 17	Edmd. Barker, Calder Vale.	J. C. Sutcliffe and A. Ormrod, Esqrs., Todmorden.	Employing six young persons without registering their names.	11 0 0	4 1 6	Two informations withdrawn on payment of costs.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Aug. 17	Edmund Barker, Calder Vale.	J. C. Sutcliffe and A. Ormrod, Esqrs., Todmorden.	Employing six young persons without surgical certificates.	11 0 0	4 1 6	Two informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
Sept. 23	Eli Law, Carr Hall, Stainland.	S. Waterhouse, E. C. S. Walker, J. Appleyard, and J. Lister, Esqrs.	Employing five young persons and two women after 6 p.m.	21 0 0	5 8 6	
			<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Beadon.</i>			
June 29	G. S. Tolson, Armitage Dye Works.	Geo. and Josh. Armitage, Esqrs., Huddersfield.	Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	1 0 0	0 9 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without registering the name.	-	0 7 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
July 15	Amos Senior, Folly Works.	Josh. J. Armitage and Bentley Shaw, Esqrs.	Employing five young persons without registering their names.	2 0 0	1 6 0	Four cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing four young persons without surgical certificates.	2 0 0	1 1 0	Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Sept. 12	Binns and Gibson, Lindley.	Josh. Hirst & J. T. Fisher, Esqrs.	Employing one young person and one female after 6 p.m.	2 0 0	0 19 0	
"	H. Mallinson, Lindley	"	Employing three young persons after 6 p.m.	-	0 19 0	Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Oct. 3	Walker and Ramsden, Melkham.	Geo. Armitage, S. W. High, & J. Beaumont, Esqrs., Huddersfield.	Employing two children without certificates of school attendance.	2 0 0	0 12 0	

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865. Oct. 3	Jas. Ramsden	Geo. Armitage, S. W. Haigh, & J. Beaumont, Esqrs., Huddersfield.	Making a false entry in a register of young persons	£ s. d. 5 0 0	£ s. d. 0 15 0	
Aug. 23	Jas. Mawdesley, Crompton.	Robt. Whittaker, H. Cooper, and N. T. Milne, Esqrs., Oldham.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Oswald.</i> Employing four children without school certificates.	4 0 0	2 0 0	
"	Jas. Butterworth	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school	0 5 0	0 10 0	
"	Thos. Farrow	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school	0 5 0	0 10 0	
"	Israel Shepherd	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school	0 5 0	0 10 0	
"	Abm. Clegg	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school	0 5 0	0 14 6	

APPENDIX No. 2.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F.
Causing death - - -	6	3	6	-	2	-	14	3	17
Amputation of right hand or arm	5	1	4	2	-	1	9	4	13
Amputation of left hand or arm	4	-	1	2	1	-	6	2	8
Amputation of part of right hand	19	22	23	31	5	2	47	55	102
Amputation of part of left hand	10	13	11	20	3	2	24	35	59
Amputation of any part of leg } or foot - - - }	3	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	4
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	28	9	22	12	5	3	55	24	79
Fracture of hand or foot - -	35	36	31	47	17	8	83	91	174
Injuries to head and face - -	13	28	22	25	8	4	43	57	100
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - }	242	223	280	260	87	41	609	524	1133
Total - - -	365	335	400	400	128	61	895	796	1689

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F.
Causing death - - -	4	1	-	-	-	1	4	2	6
Amputation of part of right hand	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	5	4	6	5	-	-	11	9	20
Fracture of hand or foot - -	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
Injuries to head and face - -	4	4	3	2	2	-	9	6	15
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - }	31	15	18	7	9	2	58	24	82
Total - - -	45	24	27	16	11	3	83	43	126

REPORT of ROBERT BAKER, Esq., Inspector of Factories,
for the Eight Months ended the 31st December 1865.

Factory Inspectors' Office,
1st January 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to make my Report to you on the state of my division since the 30th of April last. I have visited and personally inspected a considerable number of factories and other works, wherein the hours of labour are restricted by law, in North and South Wales, and in Ireland: and in England, in the counties of Warwick, Leicester, Chester, Stafford, Gloucester, Somerset, and Dorset.

I am happy in being able to testify to a general and increased activity in the various branches of industry over which I, and the sub-inspectors under me, have surveillance. I am afraid, indeed, that my list of prosecutions show this, especially to those whom the vigilance of the Sub-Inspectors has detected in doing what the law has forbidden not only as regards the workers, but as respects the commercial fair-play, so to speak, of the general body of manufacturers.

And I am far from certain whether many offenders under those laws, which admit of variable time from the simple principle of the Factory Acts, have not escaped punishment within the last twelve months; because, whenever opportunities for overwork are afforded, they appear to be temptations which are almost irresistible.

Against the manufacturers of silk, flax, cotton, and earthenware, prosecutions have taken place, and in many cases for overwork, a rather novel feature within the last four years; and there have been others for irregularities only, which the experience of the offenders ought to have rendered unnecessary.

I suppose it may possibly some day happen, when all large trades in which women, young persons, and children are employed are under one system of restriction that, many of these prosecutions will cease: the mere fact of violations of the law, being too conspicuous for detection to be prevented. But till that time arrives, we shall have to rest contented with the only course left to us under variable hours of work; the consolation being, that the penalties thus inflicted, if they have no other result, form the fund which the manufacturers contribute, however unwillingly, to assist in giving to the children whom they employ an excellent education.

Mr. Sub-Inspector Haydon has, with your permission, been absent from duty for some months, on account of the state of his health.

Mr. Sub-Inspector Darkin, also, has been unable occasionally to attend to his duties for a few days at a time, for the same reason.

Mr. Sub-Inspector Kent has been at length enabled to resume those active exertions which his unhappy position in the public mind had so long rendered him incapable of. With respect to him, I venture now to advert for a few moments to that which I can speak of, perhaps, better than anybody else, namely, the wrong which has been done him by the public for so long a period, in condemning him, almost unheard, in a matter so vitally important to him in every way, and from which he is now I trust completely exonerated. It is a proverb almost too trite to repeat, and many have found it so in life, that they who have done a man an injury, never forgive him. Yet there has been an exception to this axiom in Mr. Kent's case; for no less important a person than the mayor of a large manufacturing town, was lately heard to declare that, so deeply did he feel the injury which he had himself committed upon Mr. Kent, by condemning him unheard, if a national subscription was commenced on his behalf, he would be one of the first and largest contributors to it. I am sure I can say, if the tenor of Mr. Kent's life for the last four years had been known to the world as well as I have been able to observe it, his anxiety to clear his name from unmerited condemnation, only rendered more intense by the agony of doubt as to the actual criminal; the threatened blindness of his wife, now unhappily terminated in paralysis; the isolation of all his children from society, added to the cares of an infant family almost dependent upon a comparatively small office held by one advanced in life, that public sympathy, always generous to suffering, and doubly so to injustice, might have probably replaced the sum he has been compelled to appropriate from his private resources, partly in elucidating so mysterious a murder, and partly in the defence of his wretched child, who, as a woman, has done what she could to vindicate the reputation of her family, and to clear it from a participation in her crime. Soon after the Road murder first attracted public notice, I was obliged to ask for Mr. Kent's removal from Wiltshire into a quiet district in Wales, when that which he was in, would not tolerate him: and when I would have sent him to another, that also threatened to rise in public array against him to avert my intention. Thus driven from district to district, a mark and a scoff for everybody, his

distress of mind can only be faintly imagined, but cannot be portrayed. His name is, however, clear from the foul blot which it has so long sustained from the act of wild revenge of a child, who, to say the least of it, was born of a mother who for years lived and who died insane; and it seemed to me due to him that I should take this opportunity of referring to the circumstance, in the hope, that there may be left to him many years of official services, now that so much of his past calamity is being forgotten.

Accidents.

It is very much to be regretted that accidents in factories continue to be so numerous. In my division alone they amount to 584, and of these 8 were fatal. The Sub-Inspectors and I have taken due care to enforce all the fencing of machinery which the law authorizes. But our powers, very limited in this respect before the Act 19 & 20 Vict. c. 38, have not been rendered by that Act more effectual. I think it probable that many of the minor accidents (and in this way I partially account for the increment over their sum in my last report) are attributable to the curiosity and carelessness of fresh employées, who, unused to machinery and ignorant of the danger attendant on it, have either attempted to play with it, or to clean it whilst in motion, and have therefore suffered by it. Indeed, I have found this to be so stated in some of the surgeon's reports; proving clearly, that, against certain forms of accident, no reasonable precautions can be preservative. "Waste" and "flyings" are picked from wheels in motion, and hands are put under machinery for the same purpose, in spite of all the remonstrances of overlookers. A great many finger ends have been taken off by the draught wheels of spinning frames, from which the "fencings" have been temporarily removed whilst the wheels were being changed; and by the frames being "set on" before the fencing had been replaced. So far as has laid in our power, we have endeavoured to obviate all such causes of danger; and our efforts are being continued in this direction. Three cases, and all of a serious nature, have occurred to children employed at self-acting mules. In two of these, Mr. Sub-Inspector Jones reported to me "all parties blameless but the sufferers." In the third, the spinner was prosecuted and fined in the highest penalty that the law allows, namely, 3*l.* and costs, Mr. Jones rightly stating in his address to the magistrates that, "the manner in which the boy had been employed differed little from that of placing him in front of a railway train."

Mr. Sub-Inspector Fitton reported to me in November last another accident of a serious nature, occurring at certain fog signal works in Birmingham, which, on inquiry, he found had never been visited by us, because no percussion cap or cartridge manufacture had ever been carried on, on these particular premises. But, as the manufacture of fog signals is even more dangerous than that of percussion caps, he is of opinion, and I agree with him, that it should be included in the laws affecting percussion cap and cartridge making.

A fog signal workshop consists of four apartments made of very light wooden slabs, namely, a japanning room, a first closing room, a room in which signals already primed with three percussion caps are filled with powder, and a second closing room, in which outside cases are fitted on to the signal. The process of loading a fog signal is, first, to place caps on three nipples in the centre of boxes of tin. This may be done in any room but the filling room. The signals, thus primed, are carried to the fillers' room, and powder is sifted in to them till the box is full, a charge being about half an ounce of powder. The charged signals are now taken to the first closing shop, and closed by a punch. The outer case is then fitted and closed over the first two boxes or dishes, already clamped together, and it is then finished in the japanning room.

Very stringent printed rules were made in 1860 for fog signal shops, and are still in operation, namely, as follows:—

1. The working hours are from half-past eight in the morning till seven in the evening, allowing one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea.
2. No one to be admitted into the shop during the work hours, except those employed in the work.
3. No greater quantity than 50 lbs. of gunpowder, either loose or made up into fog signals, to be in the shop at one time. A gross of signals will contain about $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of powder.
4. No gunpowder to be in the shop while the process of closing is going on.
5. No detonating powder, fulminate of mercury, or lucifer matches to be kept in the shop.

As, notwithstanding constant supervision by those in authority over the workers, the above rules are often set at defiance, the occupier thinks it desirable that some power by law should be given to an employer, similar to those in the special rules for ventilation sanctioned by the Factories Act Extension Act. At present, the only punishment which can be inflicted is dismissal, in which case, a new and inexperi-

enced hand has to be taught the closing process; and therefore, the dismissal of any person has, for a time, rather the effect of increasing than diminishing danger.

The accidents which occur from shafting are almost always of a fatal character. Of the deaths recorded in this report, two were from this cause. Such accidents arise, for the most part, from belts that are permitted to hang loosely on shafts in motion, when the drums to which they belong are not in use; and these belts, becoming entangled, lap, and lay hold of the dress of the worker, who is usually drawn up to the shaft and killed. By the Act to which I have previously referred, shafts that run along the upper part of each room near to the ceiling, are assumed to be those "near to which children, young persons, and women are not liable to come in contact, either in passing, or in their ordinary occupation." Experience, however, unfortunately testifies to the contrary; and the total loss of life by belts and shafts in the workshops of the United Kingdom annually, must be something fearful to contemplate.

But now that so many other trades are likely to be placed under the provisions of the Factory Acts, in most of which, mechanical motive power is employed, it seems needful, that the authority we possess to require the fencing off of mill gearing and machinery, should be increased. I have no desire to recall the arguments by which the 19 and 20 Vict. c. 38, was obtained. Far from it. But my opinion is based upon seeing, year by year, how the most serious accidents occur: on observing the fearfully exposed mill gearing in the basement story of flint mills in potteries, and of clay grinding machinery in brick fields; and on knowing, how negligently power is applied in many other kinds of gregarious labour than factories, so that I am satisfied without such increased powers, there will be a continued record of accidents at which humanity will shudder. I have only to add, that the most severe accidents happen in places and to persons who had no business to be where the machinery was, by which they suffered; and that with reasonable forethought and at a small expense, they might possibly have been avoided. My wish is simply, as it is my duty, to direct your attention to the annual list of accidents which these reports present; and to satisfy you, if I am able, that with all the experience which we have had, we might now, I hope, safely be trusted with discretionary powers much larger than those we possess, to direct the fencing off of dangerous machinery; and that such clauses as those in the Bleachworks Act and Laceworks Act which prohibit it, are serious defects in protective legislation. It was only since my last report, that a finisher

who was cleaning a mangle in a bleachworks had one of his arms caught in a pair of cog wheels, and it was so completely destroyed that he died in eight hours afterwards.

Several minor accidents have arisen from the machinery of carpet looms. Mr. Sub-Inspector Fitton, who has taken great pains to inquire into them, and to suggest improvements, refers them to four or five causes, four of which are preventible at a moderate cost. "Many accidents" says he, "have occurred at the lathe or beam of the loom, owing to the workmen attempting to piece the warps whilst the loom is in motion. Their fingers slip between the threads, and are constantly being crushed. I have suggested that a fine should be enforced by the masters upon any man detected piecing or interfering with the machinery without previously stopping the loom." The preventible causes are in course of protection as fast as possible. A class of accidents of a very painful character occurs from the shuttle flying from the loom, on meeting with a sufficiently interruptive cause in its passage across the beam. The eye of the worker at the opposite loom is generally lost from this flight of the shuttle, and so frequently does it occur that it has become a matter of serious consideration how it may be prevented. Messrs. Fox Brothers of Wellington have been good enough to favour me with a drawing of an inexpensive invention, which they inform me is effective, and I have been permitted by them to offer it for the consideration of power loom weavers elsewhere; it is now in Cheshire for that purpose.

I have to report to you two cases of accidents by explosion which have occurred in and about works in the neighbourhood of Birmingham that were placed under the Factory Act Extension Act last year. The first occurred in November last at Messrs. Ludlows' percussion cap manufactory, but not in that part of the works appropriated to cap making, but in another part, in which fog signals are made. These gentlemen, some time ago, when their works were in Birmingham, had a serious and fatal explosion, which led them to erect suitable premises for this dangerous manufacture, in the country, at least half a mile distant from any dwelling house; and here it was that the explosion occurred. Happily no lives were lost, though some of the workers were severely burnt.

The second took place on the 2nd of December last, at the percussion cap manufactory of Mr. John Cox, also situated at a considerable distance from Birmingham. This explosion ended in the death of the worker by whom it occurred, and arose from the improper manner in which the

deceased was charging the caps. Charging the caps is done by sifting percussion powder over holes in a perforated plate, with the caps on another plate below it. When the holes are filled the remaining powder is brushed gently off with a hare's foot or proper brush. The deceased was stated not to have been employed in these works to charge, and knew nothing about charging; but I believe she was really charging for another worker, who was suffering from a condition of skin to which I hereafter refer. Charging caps is a most dangerous occupation, and requires a person of the most competent judgment and experience to perform it. The verdict of the jury was that of "accidental death." My attention having been directed to the condition of the skin of the worker for whom the deceased person was said to be charging, and as it was stated to me that other persons had suffered from the same condition, and that it was a disease peculiar to percussion cap making, I requested Mr. Jordan, the certifying surgeon, to see the worker with me, and to give me his opinion about it. The conclusion at which we both arrived was, that it was a case of eczema, arising more probably from alimentary causes, than from the employment. But as the woman asserted that she had had no symptoms of any such disease till she had wiped her face with her apron when charged with the explosive powder, which I believe is a compound of potash, antimony, and a preparation of mercury, we shall watch for any other case with some interest.

Employment generally.

THE COTTON TRADE.—The public mind, has, for some time been informed, that the cotton famine was at an end. I sincerely hope that that is so; and if the present state of employment is the test of prosperity, there can be no question about it. I have therefore ventured on an endeavour, to the best of the means within my power, to supplement the able reports made by other writers on this subject, by a comparison between the numbers of mills, looms, spindles, persons, and power employed in my division, in the cotton trade alone, in the two periods of December 1860 and 1865, in order to show some of the effects which this eventful depression has had upon the vast interests engaged therein. It will be satisfactory, too, as showing that, notwithstanding all the causes which have operated during the last five years to depress the energies and industry of both manufacturers and operatives, there has been throughout an elasticity in both which nothing could entirely overcome;

and that there is preparation made for a gradual return to a prosperity which, when it comes, shall be far greater than anything which has yet been recorded in the history of the past.

It has been well said, that in dating from facts nothing should be assumed. I am, however, compelled so far to assume that, the number of mills from which my conclusions are drawn, fairly represent the state of the whole cotton trade of the kingdom. I believe they do. In number they ought; and the weekly distribution of cotton to the trade, according to the Liverpool circulars, confirms the belief thus entertained.

The subjoined table has been compiled with as much accuracy as possible. But there have been so many changes of firms within the years stated, so much machinery removed, so many tenants after tenants, one after another endeavouring to succeed on the failure of their predecessors, that it has been very difficult to ascertain the results correctly, especially those which relate to machinery removed, or standing temporarily or permanently. In other respects I believe it is, as nearly as possible, exact.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of COTTON MILLS at work in a given area in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire, with the looms, spindles, persons, and power employed in December 1861, as compared with the same mills in December 1865, to which is added the number of new occupancies, &c., on the same area, and also the machinery and persons at present unemployed.

	Number of Occupancies.	Looms.	Spindles.	Males above 13 Years.	Females above 13 Years.	Males between 13 and 18 Years.	Children.		Total.	Power in Horses.		Schools under Inspection or not, at which children attend.	
							M.	F.		Stm.	W.	Yes.	No.
Mills in 1865 -	570	95,163	7,025,031	23,660	50,768	8,259	3,282	2,944	88,913	28,925	1,445	231	51
Same mills in 1860.	570	85,622	6,819,146	25,461	51,255	10,009	3,864	3,530	94,119	27,439	1,390		
Increase -		9,541	205,885							1,486	55		
Decrease -				1,801	487	1,750	582	586	5,206				
Add new occupancies since 1861 to those of 1865.	110	11,625	623,578	2,621	4,256	750	309	185	8,121	2,695	40	50	3
Total -	680	106,788	7,653,607	26,281	55,024	9,009	3,591	3,129	97,034	31,620	1,485	281	58
Deduct machinery removed and standing at the present time.	82	12,933	1,562,357	3,513	9,150	1,236	498	339	14,736	7,127	251		
	598	93,855	6,151,250	22,768	45,874	7,773	3,093	2,790	82,298	24,493	1,184	281	58

In 1860, when the census of all the factories was taken by order of Parliament, the number of cotton mill occupiers in my division of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire, and enumerated in this Table, was 652; of these 570 contained 85,622 looms, 6,819,146 spindles for spinning, employed 94,119 persons, 27,439 horse power (steam), and 1,390 horse power (water.) In 1860 all the spindles extant in the cotton trade, were in full work, and they were estimated to consume upwards of 50,000 bales of cotton a week at 410 lbs. per bale. In 1865 the same occupancies contain 95,163 looms, 7,025,031 spindles, employ 88,913 persons, and have a steam power of 28,925 horses and a water power of 1,445 horses; so that the increase in five years, or thereabouts, amounts to 11 per cent. in looms, to 3 per cent. in spindles, and in steam power to 5 per cent.; whilst there is a decrease of persons employed amounting to 5.5 per cent., which I presume may be accounted for in two ways; firstly, by the extra increase in looms, whereby fewer persons are required (more looms being given to one person to mind), and secondly, partly by all the employes of 1865 not being accounted for, some of the machinery being idle. These occupancies of half a decade are specially placed side by side, in the first instance, to show the increases and decreases in each particular, in relation to these five years of cotton famine.

To these are to be added 110 new occupancies, employing 11,625 additional looms, 628,576 spindles, 8,121 persons, 2,695 conjoined power of steam and water, making a total of occupancies on the 1st December 1865 of 680, of extant looms 106,788, of spinning spindles 7,653,607, of persons employed, 97,034, of steam power, 31,620, and of water power 1,485; so that the real increase of mills and machinery, &c., upon the same area appears to be about 4 per cent. of mills, of looms 24.7 per cent.; of spindles 12 per cent., of persons employed 3 per cent., and of power, steam and water together, 14 per cent.

From these total figures, however, so far as the employment of the people is concerned, are to be deducted the following sums of machinery, &c., at present standing in 82 factories, including a few mills that are empty and not likely to be re-employed in cotton manufacture; namely, 12,933 looms, 1,502,357 spindles, and 14,736 persons, leaving, on the 1st of December last, in full work of 60 hours a week:—

out of	106,788 looms	93,855 or 87 per cent.
„	7,653,607 spindles	6,151,250 „ 80 „
„	97,034 persons	82,298 „ 84 „
„	33,055 horse power	25,677 „ 77 „

the average hours of work in a mill of upwards of 1,000 hands for the seven years from 1853 to 1859, both inclusive, being at the rate of 92 per cent. of the legal time. Lastly there are to add several new mills already built or building, designed for 2,510 looms, and 490,000 spindles; and Mr. Sub-Inspector Jones informs me that thirteen either large new mills, or extensions equivalent to new mills, are further contemplated in the neighbourhood of Bolton, and that for some of them, the bricks are already in course of preparation.

With respect to the employment of the cotton weavers, as compared with 1861, it will be observed that both the male adults and the females above 13 years, have increased in numbers in the occupancies at work. This is probably to be attributed to the increased number of looms at which they have been preferentially employed, and probably, also, to many of the children of 1861 having been passed for full time and having become weavers. One thing, at least, appears clear, that there are the means of employment ready for a much larger number of hands than were at work in 1861; and that at the present moment, notwithstanding all the machinery standing, the numbers employed are only 14 per cent. less than in the most prosperous times, and even much of that may be due, as I have before said, to the displacement of labour by new, or by a more economical management of old machinery, and not as an effect of the cotton famine *per se*.

One sees, perhaps, as much of "the turn which the cotton trade has taken," as anywhere, in the mills that have been erected within the last five years in isolated places in the country, far away from the great centres of the trade itself; or, in those of a similar character, which, for that reason alone, had been compelled for want of profitable employment to be closed. The first are now all filling fast with machinery and raw material; the second, are re-opening with re-assured confidence; and in several of them, a scarcity of hands is already beginning to be felt. Many limited liability companies have also been formed on old firms, into which they have merged; and some of these have even disappeared.

There is a good deal to be considered in respect to the average rate of wages, since an advance may be really an advance in the rate, or it may depend, in a great measure, upon the improvements in machinery, by which the worker has been enabled to produce more, and therefore to obtain the increase. A very considerable advance took place on this account between the years 1854 and 1860, greater than at any other period. Thus, for example, the average rate of wages of certain departments of cotton manufacture in

certain years previous to and including 1865, shows a difference of considerable extent, mainly to be attributed to the improvements in machinery, though partly also to the scarcity of hands.

AVERAGE WAGES per week in the following years:—

	1850.	1853.	1854.	1860.	1865.
Spinners (men)	20s.	22s.	20s.	27s.	30s.
Carders „	20s.	22s.	20s.	28s.	25s.to34s.
Grinders „	14s.	15s.4d.	14s.	17s.	16s.
Rovers (women)	12s.	13s.2d.	12s.	13s.6d.	15s.
Thistle spinners (girls)	- 8s. 9d.	9s.8d.	8s.9d.	11s.9d.	
Weavers	- 10s.	11s.	10s.	12s.	8s.6d.
Self-acting minders	—	—	—	22s.	30s.

These rates of wages vary a little in different parts of my division, according to peculiar circumstances, but not enough to require special observation. The average rate per head in 1860 in a cotton mill of 500 workers, was, according to Mr. David Chadwick's pamphlet, 10s. 3d.; at present it appears to be 13s. 2d.; so that, whether in consequence of improved machinery or not, the hours being the same, the average increase cannot but be deemed satisfactory.

The following table, prepared by Mr. Sub-Inspector Bailey, on the cotton employment in a portion of his district, may be interesting, as showing some of the alterations in firms which have taken place.

NUMBER and DESCRIPTION of COTTON FACTORIES which have commenced business in 1865.

1	2	3	4	5	6
New spinning and weaving mills opened, and old mills re-opened or changed hands.	New weaving sheds opened, and old weaving sheds re-opened or changed hands.	New spinning and weaving mills in course of completion.	New spinning and weaving mills and weaving sheds unoccupied.	New mills empty.	New warping and winding firms.
6	31	1	3	5	1

Of number 2, 21 are new firms, of the 31, five have stopped again, and two have increased their operations by taking sheds formerly occupied by others.

As an indication of the general expectation of continued employment in the cotton trade, the following letter from a spinner may be useful:—

"The papers have teemed with letters and circulars showing that the famine in cotton is by no means over, but will shortly become more severe than ever. A well-known broker tells us we are to have dear cotton during the next two years, and takes considerable pains to show spinners that their prospects are 'by no means flattering.' Under these circumstances it appears to me that the trade should hold a general meeting, and, taking the calculations of the prophetic broker as a basis, agree to work so many days per week as his figures shall permit, with the proviso that so soon as the stock in Liverpool accumulates to one million bales the agreement shall cease. The experience of the past five years should have convinced the trade that high prices and constant fluctuations are the curse of all sound trade, and are ruinous in the extreme; and although spinners as a body are not famous for union, there must surely be a large majority who would be willing to adopt 'universal short time,' as they must be well aware, from past experience, that full time, with short supplies, results in no profit or in positive loss; whereas general short time would not only ensure certain and immediate profit to all, but would to a great extent prevent loss, should more cotton than at present appears be discovered in America; meanwhile such a stock of cotton would gradually accumulate in Liverpool as to allay all fears as to a famine next year, and would give the 'cotton prophets' ample time to recruit their exhausted energies. If three-fourths of the trade would consent to short time, I am quite willing to make one of them. Perhaps some one will suggest a way of bringing the matter under discussion, so as to ascertain the feeling of the trade generally. I should think the Cotton Spinners' Association might take up the subject, as I know many of its members are quite prepared to adopt my proposition."

With regard to the Ethics of the cotton districts, as they may have been additionally affected by the famine, I am afraid there is not much to be said in their favour; and that even a greater laxity prevails than formerly. The chief-constable of Bolton, Mr. Harris, who takes deep interest in the working classes beyond his mere sphere of official duty, thus writes on this subject: "I regret to say that there are some unfortunate females who, in consequence of the cotton famine, were at its commencement thrown out of employment, and have thereby become outcasts of society; and now, though trade has revived and work is plentiful, continue members of that unfortunate class, and are likely to continue so. There are also in the borough more youthful prostitutes than I have known for the last 25 years. Last year there was

“ an increase, and this year also there is an increase; whilst
 “ the numbers of petty thieves have diminished.” Mr.
 Harris’s figures show the following results:—

Of the whole population of the borough of Belton from
 1856 to 1859, 1860: 1865:
 both inclusive:

There were apprehended for
 minor offences, *i.e.* persons
 disposed of for larceny,
 summarily, - - - 1 in 490 1 in 613 1 in 526

For major or indictable of-
 fences - - - 1 in 386 1 in 482 1 in 387

For immorality generally - 1 in 35 1 in 30 1 in 32

From which it would appear that, in 1860, the most
 prosperous year of the cotton trade on record, there was
 less thieving and more immorality than on the average of
 the preceding four years, or in the subsequent fifth year;
 but this was principally amongst the male sex, for in the
 same period the percentage male delinquency over female
 was as follows: namely—

From 1856 to 1859 - - - 78 per cent.

1860 - - - 75 per cent.

1865 - - - 71 per cent.

So that Mr. Harris’s conclusions seem to be fully confirmed.

THE SILK WORKERS.—It is very gratifying to be able at
 length to report to you a revival in the silk trade of my division;
 especially at Macclesfield, Congleton, and Leek; and a con-
 siderable improvement also in the trade of Coventry, as well as
 of other silk districts. For several years now, the factories
 in all these places have been miserably employed. It has
 been quite painful to receive the reports of the Sub-Inspec-
 tors’ visits to them. At last, however, there appears to have
 been so great activity, that it has been necessary to institute
 prosecutions against some of the occupiers, for overwork. A
 woollen mill has been established at Macclesfield, and two
 cotton, two woollen, and one or two elastic web factories
 at Coventry and in the neighbourhood, all of which seem
 likely to render the employment of these places more per-
 manent. In Leek there is a large class of hands employed,
 (many of them being very young children,) in twisting shops.
 But as no mechanical power is used to move the machinery, it
 does not fall within the scope of the Factory Act. Mr.
 Sub-Inspector May reports of these shops as follows on the
 12th of October last: “ The Act permits the employment of
 “ children of 11 years old as full timers, solely in the
 “ winding and throwing of raw silk. Now, the process of

" making silk thread by hand, is not called throwing but twisting, and is carried on in buildings called twisting sheds. It produces the same results as throwing by different means. Some manufacturers maintain that it is throwing, and others as stoutly maintain the contrary." Large numbers of children are employed in twisting. Dr. Greenhow, in his report to the medical officer of the Privy Council in 1860; refers to these twisters in detail, and says: "A great number of very young children work at home, or in winding rooms, or other work places, which do not come within the jurisdiction of the inspectors. In some of these places children are employed to turn the wheel that moves the machine, an employment at which they are engaged for at least 10 hours in the day." After referring to two other establishments he adds: "In a third establishment of the same kind, 18 or 20 of the operatives were girls between the ages of 18 and 12 years. Including men, women, and children, 51 operatives were here crowded into a space which, including that occupied by machinery, consisted of 10,000 cubic feet, thus affording an average of less than 200 cubic feet per head. Ventilation was most imperfect; in fact, practically there was none, for the windows opened so exactly in a line with the heads of the workers that they could not bear them open while at work. The duration of labour was 10 hours a day." Dr. Greenhow gives the death rate from lung disease in Leek as the highest of all the neighbouring districts, three times higher than the six standard districts in Northumberland and Cumberland, and nearly twice as high as the ten standard districts in Devonshire and Cornwall. It would be therefore very desirable, and as easy as it is desirable, in any further extension of the Factory Acts, to include "twisters" amongst the operatives now under regulation.

There is a considerable trade lately commenced in Coventry and the villages round about it, viz., the manufacture of beadwork on silk thread for trimming. It is performed by children, here and there in factories, but mostly in the houses of the operatives; and to such an extent is it carried on in some localities that, one mill occupier lately asserted "so many children in the villages around him were employed on beadwork, he could not procure any fresh hands. He was therefore about to close his mill and go to Derby." This trade has been too recently introduced to speak of it as likely to be permanent. It may only be a fashion, to be displaced after a short period. There is also a smaller manufacture of woollen scarfs in hand looms initiated in Coventry, and of some promise.

In my report for 1859 I mentioned that there were then in Coventry 15 large factories with an aggregate of 1,250 power looms, and about 300 cottage factories, containing from two to six looms each, also moved by power, besides a large number of hand looms. I said of these cottage factories that "they are all occupied by working men, who are masters in fact, and who for the most part employ their own families. Some of the looms are their own, some are bought on credit, some are hired. In all cases the power is hired at so much a week per loom. The weavers work for the most part for employers who do not care to be manufacturers, or who, being manufacturers, are not anxious to increase their own outlay in machinery. It is a problem the success of which remains to be seen, having only been in operation about twelve years. As a public question it is interesting, because it is retransferring labour from the factory to the home. It may be at the same time increasing local responsibilities; for as fashion varies and its caprices grow, the rich capitalist can adapt his machinery to its every requirement, and as trade lingers, or demand ceases, he can afford to go on for months, and to keep his people together without interruption. But with the small manufacturers, who live from hand to mouth, who sometimes hire labour as well as power, and, therefore, to whom every day's idleness is an almost irredeemable loss, the case is different, and requires anxious and careful consideration." Since these words were written, the commercial state of Coventry has been a matter of painful and of public notoriety. In my books, the entries of the changes of occupiers of these cottage factories, has been one of the most laborious duties imaginable. Looms that were earning little fortunes for their owners, have been like shares in many public companies, utterly unsaleable, worthless, and scarcely acceptable, if given. The former owners are earning their bread in other lands, and by other occupations than ribband weaving; and whole streets of cottages have retrograded from steam to hand power, and to the dependent condition of hand labour when in competition with steam.

In Coventry, indeed, it has long been a struggle for the mastery, as it were, between the cottage factory and the factory *per se*; and it has been interesting to look on and see how it might end; because, though the tartan hand loom which in 1830 existed in hundreds, under an assumption that mixed patterns, of a certain quality at all events, could never be woven by steam, has long since disappeared, there has not been any other opportunity that I know of, save this at

Coventry, of observing the single handed steam loom, in an apparently inexpensive and riskless form of application, in competition with the steam loom in numbers.

It is however, now, beginning to be tolerably obvious to persons interested in both kinds of looms that, though the cottage loom lingers on a little after the most disastrous experiences, it is more perhaps, on account of the capital which remains invested in it and in the buildings which have been specially erected for it, than, as to any doubt of its being eventually superseded.

About the silk trade itself, a most able authority, to whom I am now, and have been often indebted for information on this subject, thus writes, and I refer to it, with a view to the present and future employment of the workers :

“ 1865 has been a better year for the silk trade in general than several of the preceding ones. Throwers have been fairly employed, and the ribband and elastic weaving trades have been good. The latter continues to increase in importance, and now consumes a very large quantity of silk. Owing to the deficient silk crop on the Continent for several years past (to which the present year has been no exception,) and the almost total exhaustion of the stocks of European silks, prices have advanced to an extremely high point. This advance has been steady throughout the year, with the exception of a short period in July last, when a very greatly increased importation of China silk was expected. This, although greatly larger than last year, proved to be considerably less than was anticipated, and prices soon resumed their upward tendency.

“ Large quantities of silkworm seed have this year been imported, and are coming from Japan into France and Italy, it having been ascertained, by experiments extensively tried in the early part of this year, that the worms raised from this seed have been exempt from, or are, at any rate, less liable to, the disease which has been so fatal to the European species. Should this continue to be the case, an increased production of French and Italian silk may be expected for next year.

“ One striking feature remains to be observed, and it is that, notwithstanding the extremely high prices of the raw material, trade, contrary to the usual course of things, continues to be good, and prospects for the early part of next year are cheering.”

With more immediate reference to the employment of the silk workers of Coventry, another informant thinks hopefully of the ribband trade, and that next year will be a

better year than the last has been. The wages paid in his establishment have been as follows:—

	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
1864	- 4d.	5½d.	7d.	9d.	11d.	1s. 1d.	1s. 3d.
1865	- 4d.	6d.	8d.	10d.	1s.	1s. 3d.	1s. 4½d.

So that there has been a little increased benefit for the weaver.

Generally speaking, the ribband trade of Coventry has considerably improved since this time last year, fashion having changed in favour of the manufacturers. Weavers, therefore, are receiving better wages, as for example,—in another ribband establishment the advance in wages has been as follows:

	1862.	1865.
8 day. overt.	- - 6½d.	7½d.
30 „ „	- - 1s. 5d.	1s. 11d.
30 „ d. Sat.	- - 1s. 6d.	2s.
40 „ one	- - 1s. 11d.	2s. 3d.
40 „ d. Sat.	- - 2s.	2s. 4d.
30 „ drawn	- - 1s. 8d.	2s.
40 „ „	- - 2s. 2d.	2s. 8d.

A few hands are still emigrating from Coventry, and in some respects labour is scarce. No doubt the high price of raw material, limits the demand for goods; but, the “good times” seem not far distant for Coventry again; and their advent ought to be helped with all the energy which the manufacturers can exert. One thing, it appears to me they might do with great advantage, which is yet undone. They might, as in the cotton trade, form themselves into a silk supply association, and endeavour to discover new sources whence suitable silk could be derived. They would thus become more independent than they now are, of those they have at present, which, subject as they are to either human or insect devastation, are ever leaving the consumer at a disadvantage, and which without fresh efforts, it is impossible to rectify.

It is said, the north of India could supply silk equal in quality, if not superior, to China: and that from this quarter alone, the prospect of any future silk famine might be averted. With this supply association formed, and having its home in some important town of the silk districts, it might readily be made the focus of a variety of regenerative suggestions which the silk trade appears to require. The present hand to mouth operations are both costly and unsatisfactory. The manufacture seems to need some system to give it energy. The manufacturers themselves exhibit no

very strong faith in their own stability; they appear to provoke few efforts after new inventions; they rather seem to leave to the weaver to discover new methods of attracting customers, instead of themselves providing the means with which to encourage practical artisans in stimulating fashions and instituting changes; and thus the trade lingers on, hoping, doubting, uncertain, and unstable.

It is not thus, however, that successes are achieved in the great branches of other textile manufactures, in some of which the occupiers destroy more machinery, after a few years wear and tear, than ribband manufacturers ever dream of; and replace it with inventions that are to enable them not only to keep their position, but to enlarge their operations, and abundantly to repay them for the outlay. The ribband manufacturers, on the contrary, seem hardly yet to have arrived at the knowledge that machinery in proper hands is the most valuable servant they can employ, and will repay them for any sacrifice. The summing up of the state of Coventry, therefore, appears to be that, there is large room for improvement, and more hope than heretofore; and that, to all present appearance, the ordeal through which it has been so long passing, is well nigh over.

WOOLLEN WORKERS.—I have very little to report to you on the state of employment amongst the woollen mills. Those in my division lie principally in the west of England and in the Welsh counties. In the former it has been steady and regular, and in manipulation is nothing behind other clothing districts. The flannel mills of Wales have suffered a good deal during the summer from droughts, and from a want of raw material, which is bought up for Yorkshire and elsewhere, at their very doors. Mr. Sub-Inspector Fitton reported to me some time ago, that the carpet trade of Kidderminster had been a good deal disturbed by an arbitrary rule amongst the weavers, that no apprentice shall be taken who is under 21 years of age. Youths of 16 or 18, therefore, can only earn about 6s. a week as piccers; and many, in consequence, having left the trade altogether, hands are expected to be scarce.

The following report, taken from the "Birmingham Post" of a few days ago, will, however, place the whole matter more fully before you:—

"The weavers have placed themselves in a hostile position to their employers on the simple question of the right to introduce apprentices, or hands under twenty-one, to the loom. The views of the employers on this subject are these:—For fifteen years the Brussels power-loom at the various firms that have adopted steam power have been almost entirely supplied with the surplus

labour that arose from the cessation of hand-loom weaving. Only one hand-loom firm now remains, and the workpeople there are actively engaged; and as they have recently had their wages raised, there is every inducement for them to continue in their hand-loom occupation. The power-loom manufacturers, on the other hand, have experienced some scarcity of labour from these causes:—1st, that there are no more eligible hand-loom men offering; and secondly, that the creation of weavers by the teaching of youths has been opposed by the weavers themselves, although this course has always been adopted previously in the hand-loom trade. Thus, with the two sources of labour supply dried up, and with the prospect of an increasing trade in Kidderminster and elsewhere, the manufacturers felt they must soon be reduced to enter into severe competition with each other for such hands as they required, or else be dependent upon any that casually offered themselves, with the prospect of narrow numbers and still severer competition from the unavoidable decrease caused by sickness, old age, or removals in the ordinary course, among the men. For some time also, strong complaints have been made to the employers about the want of occupation for youths, and it has been suggested that the same kind of encouragement which under the hand-loom system was given to weavers' sons to learn the business should be continued under the new order of things. It is well known that, for want of some such system as this, members of Kidderminster families have been compelled to walk about the streets idle, or else driven to seek employment in other trades and towns, where no such unfairness applies. It is stated that several weavers would gladly have placed their sons at the staple trade of the town, could they have done so, and the manufacturers believe the moral well-being of the community would be highly advantaged by the encouragement afforded to some of the boys by the resumption of the old system, and their being taught to weave before they arrived at the age of manhood. The propriety of selecting a few of these young men, from time to time, to train them to the loom, has been confirmed by the inquiries made by the Power-loom Brussels Carpet Manufacturers' Association as to other employers of power-loom labour. At Halifax and Durham, in the Brussels trade, and at Heckmondwike in the Dutch trade, young men are invariably employed with adults on the different firms. The system has been found most valuable in keeping the labour of families together, and promoting the mutual interest of employers and employed. It is, therefore, with great surprise that the manufacturers have found, in some of the firms, weavers in opposition to a principle which they consider so naturally fair, and of such long standing in the carpet trade. That the opposition to it proceeds from a misapprehension of the intention of the Association is manifest, it is said, from the exaggerated and absurd rumours put forth in the locality. It is not the intention of the associated firms to displace a single workman at the present time, or to decline any eligible adult hand who offers himself; but to keep just such a moderate supply of adult hands and appren-

tices as is necessary for the wants of the trade, giving the latter no preference over the ordinary weaver, but subjecting them to the same time and conditions as the rest in regard to hours of employment, and putting them to the loom only when a legitimate vacancy occurs. The Association, on this footing, ensure a young man so selected a more liberal scale of day work payment than they could receive as 'creel' boys, and not one would be introduced for whom prospect of work could not reasonably be found. Such are the views entertained by the masters, and it may be as well also to give the resolution on which the proposed change is based. It is to the following effect:—'That on and after the 1st January next, the following alterations be made in the prices paid for weaving various qualities and widths of jacquard carpeting, and for the reasonable changes connected therewith; and that the necessary supply of labour for the wants of the trade, be made both by the admission of a moderate number of apprentices, and also such adult hands as may be required, in such numbers as the Association may think fair and reasonable, and subject to the control of the Association.' (Then follows a list of the new prices to be paid.) The manufacturers and a deputation of the weavers were to meet yesterday to confer on the disputed question, and we hope to be able to state that something satisfactory was then arrived at."

"The Strike in the Carpet Trade, and its Termination.—In the course of Monday afternoon, a meeting of weavers was held in the Corn Exchange, when upwards of 700 persons attended. Mr. Benjamin Arnold took the chair, and after opening the business of the meeting, read the following letters, to and from the Association of Weavers, to the masters:—'Sir, The Committee of the Power-loom Brussels Weavers' Association, at the urgent request of the general body, have authorized and instructed me to forward to you a copy of a resolution which was unanimously adopted at a mass meeting, held in the Corn Exchange, December 22, and which is as follows: "That this meeting is unanimous in its condemnation of the apprenticeship system of the manufacturers, and are of opinion that all necessary labour should be supplied by the introduction of adult hands as usual." I am further requested and instructed to beg that you would be pleased to lay before the Committee of the Association of Manufacturers the enclosed requisition, together with the above resolution:—"Gentlemen, You cannot but be aware of the present excitement of mind which prevails among weavers generally, in consequence of the offensive matter contained in the heading of the new price list. We feel assured, as a Committee whose earnest desire is to maintain a good understanding so happily inaugurated, that the part of your resolution which has reference to the apprentices must inevitably mar this friendly feeling. The removal of the objectionable portion would be the means of soothing the irritation, and would be calculated to restore harmony, and give general satisfaction." Signed, NOAH COOK.' To this letter the following reply had been received from Mr. Henry Dixon, Secretary to the Manufacturers' Association:—"January 1, 1866.

Mr. Noah Cook. Sir, I am in receipt of your favour of this date, and have laid the same before our committee; I will give you an answer as soon as possible (most likely in a day or two). But the masters cannot meet a deputation from the Power-loom Brussels Weavers' Association as long as a strike lasts at any place in the Association, as no good feeling or proper understanding can exist at that time.—Yours very truly, H. DIXON.'—After the reading of these letters, a discussion lasting three hours ensued, in which the Committee were accused of negligence in not communicating the resolution of the weavers to the masters on the next day after it had been passed. Mr. Cook and others explained to the satisfaction of the meeting the cause of the delay. The delegates next had to defend themselves against the charge of agreeing, at the masters' meeting, to the apprenticeship system, and even thanking the masters for it. The delegates energetically protested that they had done nothing of the sort. Mr. A. Cooper went into the whole subject, and said that they had thanked the masters for the concessions they had made, but that Mr. Arnold had distinctly told them that the apprenticeship system had been discussed at Shrewsbury, and the men considered it done with. After a long conversation, in which at least twenty weavers took part, Mr. Cooksey proposed, and Mr. Price seconded, the following resolution: 'That we do not resume work till the matter is settled to our satisfaction.' A long discussion, in which several speakers protested most earnestly against strikes, followed, and the result at length was that an amendment proposed by Mr. Cox, and seconded by Mr. Whittaker, was carried, viz., 'That we resume work for one week, and in the meantime our committee make another peaceful effort to adjust the vexed question.' Yesterday morning the men quietly resumed work, and we hope that they will be able to settle the matter to the mutual satisfaction of masters and men without having recourse to a strike, which would be most disastrous to this town."

At a subsequent meeting this matter appeared to terminate as follows:

"Mr. Frederick Cookson moved that they do not resume work till the masters withdrew the apprentice aggrievance.

"Mr. H. Dobbins seconded the proposal.

"Mr. S. Perrens said the apprentices were brought forward because such men as he, who were getting old, were in the way. He remarked that if he had worn a red jacket for twenty-one years he should get 7s. a week, and he thought there should also be provision made for them.

"Another speaker said that eleven years ago, when he got a new place, his master told him that if he had known when he engaged him that he was forty years of age, he would not have had it.

"A Mr. Cook said that if the apprentices were introduced, all the men would be employed on the turnpike roads picking up dirt, and the boys would be at the looms.

"Mr. B. Arnold (not the chairman) said he did not want a strike, but if there was one, he hoped every one would be in as good a position after Whitsuntide as he should. If there was a strike he should leave the town, and he hoped there would not be 100 men left in the town that day week.

"Mr. Cox did not wish to see the apprentices, but he would ask the proposers of the resolution to bring some plausible reason why they should strike—to state what their funds were, and how the strike was to be conducted. [Cries of "Sit down."] They started a fund some few months ago, and he was sorry it was not kept up, as if it had been, they should have been in a position to induce respect. He proposed as an amendment, "That they should raise a fund of 2s. 6d. each, for a month, for an emigration fund, to counteract the evils of the master's apprentice scheme."

"Mr. G. Wright seconded the amendment. It was a serious step they proposed to take. He could recollect the humiliating circumstances under which the strike terminated twelve years ago, and many around could as well. [Hear, hear.] They struck then for an advance, and they lost a good summer's work, and had to ask the masters to allow them to go on again. What a position to place themselves in. ["Keep to the truth," and cries of "It is true."] It was a very important thing, and he believed—and he said it without disrespect—that there were plenty of men who hardly knew where to look for bread next week. It was very easy for young men who knew nothing of the consequence of these things to say strike, but he himself could remember the ignominious defeat of the strike of twenty-eight or twenty-nine weeks which once occurred. He begged the meeting to take into consideration these things and weigh them in their minds before they took that step. Provisions were dear, and he did not see any probability that it would bring things to a successful issue. [Hear, hear.]

"Mr. H. Cole said the masters would soon be tired of the apprentices if they got no profit by them, as they said they should. [Cries of derision.]

"Mr. J. Quinton moved, as a second amendment, that they subscribe 1s. per man from next Saturday, and that one half be applied to an emigration fund, and the other half for a permanent fund. By this means they would have about 12l. a week for emigration purposes, and 12l. a week to back them up in any difficulty that arose. The increase of wages which they would obtain was about 2s. 6d. per week, and after paying this subscription of 1s., there would be still 1s. 6d. increase in their wages. The number of apprentices at first would be small, and if they came upon them strong, they could double their contributions.

"Mr. Whitaker said he had witnessed a strike there, and he was not an advocate for a strike. On the occasion he referred to, the very parties who hissed him down because he did not favour the strike were the very first to go in again to work. He dared say he could stand a strike, as well as most of them; but he should be sorry to go out, and then go in again like a fool. They

could protest against the apprentices without striking. He had seen the evil of strikes, and read of it; and there were scores in the town who knew the same as he did. There had not been any strike in Kidderminster for forty or fifty years in which the men had not gone in again worse than when they turned out. There had not been one iota realised by them, but poverty and misery, and unpleasantness between the masters and men.

"After still further discussion the Chairman put it to the meeting whether they were in favour of the emigration scheme, or of a strike. The former was carried by the proportion of about three to two.

"The Town Clerk said that whatever might be the feeling of the meeting upon the immediate question which had been before it, he was sure there would be no amendment to the proposition he was going to make. But first he congratulated the town on the resolution they had passed that night, because he knew of his own knowledge, however each man might feel he was in the right, and he was quite willing to accede to them the right to their own opinions, that in case of a strike at that period of the year—and he was sure he spoke the opinion of those who proposed it as well as his own—it would be to their disadvantage for it to take place. He proposed three cheers for the Queen.

"These were accordingly given, and the chairman having been thanked, the men dispersed."

Speaking of Ireland, Mr. Sub-Inspector Girardot writes:—

"I am glad to notice great improvements in the woollen manufacture. New machinery is being introduced on all sides, and a considerable trade in Tweeds is springing up. One firm has been executing orders for Canada, and it is represented that, if mills on a larger scale were established, there would be a good foreign trade. At present, the mills are only able to undertake small orders, and these chiefly for home markets. There are many large mills in all parts of Ireland built for corn grinding, now standing idle in consequence of the diminished growth of grain, and admirably suited for manufacturing purposes. Some are well situated for communication with the coast and by railways, and are offered at low rents. Labour is cheap, and work plentiful. Capital is the only thing wanted. But there appears little enterprise in this country, and even limited liability does not stimulate the growth of companies here.

"It has been suggested to me," he adds, "that if the cloth for the constabulary was offered to Irish manufacturers it would encourage the trade greatly. I am afraid this is against the laws of political economy, and quite an exploded fashion of fostering a trade; but, if practicable, it might call into being, mills and machinery which would have plenty of work afterwards; and it seems

generally admitted that some extra encouragement is "required in this country for the employment of the poor. From the very favourable reports I hear of the woollen trade, I think it may possibly yet be very greatly extended. It was once the trade of the country, and, as it appears to me, the natural one."

THE FLAX WORKERS.—The flax machinery of the north of Ireland has been for some time now in a state of great activity, and extensions of looms and spindles, both in old and new mills, are constantly going on. In the south of Ireland, too, considerable energy has been shown in the same direction, five new mills having already been erected, one of them to contain 1,200 hands at least; and another has just commenced work. In other five that were at work in December 1864, the hands have been increased 59 per cent. Speaking of the North, "Never," says Mr. Sub-Inspector Darkin, "since I came to Ireland, now nearly 12 years ago, were wages so high. In fact, they have doubled within the last 20 years; for where spinners in 1850 and 1851 received 4s. and 4s. 6d. a week, they are now getting 8s. and 9s., and doffers (small assistants) from 2s. 6d. to 5s. With respect to weaving, in some factories, girls that mind two looms, receive upon an average 10s. to 12s. per week, a large sum for females in a country where but a few years ago a man could only earn 10d. or 1s. a day. There are peculiar cases of skilled labour, in which females earn even a higher sum than 12s."

The demand for hands in Ireland has led to considerable inconvenience between the English and Irish spinners. Employés have been "drawn" from one side of the water to the other, according to the scarcity of labour in any particular neighbourhood; and many of our English manufacturing districts are really composed of half an Irish population. For this reason, I assume that they have formed new interests in their adopted country too powerful to induce them to return; and that the wages which they continue to receive in England outweigh any money advantage which they could anticipate by it. "Of course," says Mr. Darkin, "wages would not have risen so high had there not been a great demand for labour, and the workers consequently now are very independent of their employers. Small strikes for wages are often occurring, the girls sometimes appearing, in consequence, in the police courts, where they are lectured by the bench, and let off on contritely promising to return to their work and fulfil their 'notice.' Occasionally they assemble in groups in the mill yard, shouting and cheering, but determinedly refusing to re-enter

" the factory 'till prices go up.' I was lately told by one gentleman, who resides near his factory, that they stood at his window the whole of one day and part of the next, going regularly to their meals and returning to their posts, with the most dogged determination not to do anything else, unless he came to their terms. The masters naturally refuse to be driven into concessions, but, in the long run, they have generally given way. The same demand for labour applies to all branches of the trade, whether in the spinning mills or the warehouses, in which latter, often, the men are obliged to work very late indeed. Apart from the little drawbacks incident to this state of unexampled prosperity, it is certainly very cheering to know that those who literally 'earn their bread by the sweat of their brow' are thus largely participating in the good times which have dawned upon Ulster."

It is said that Dutch flax has recently been sold for 220*l.* per ton in Courtrai; whilst exceptional specimens of Irish flax have fetched at Armagh 20*s.* a stone of 14 lbs. "I was told to-day," says Mr. Darkin, "of a farmer who had just realised more than 80*l.* for the produce of two and a quarter English acres, doubtless to the mortification of his less energetic neighbours, who only occasionally peddle with flax, just as the whim takes them, instead of following the enlightened example of many Irish cultivators, who now grow a certain quantity of flax every year in regular course, alike uninfluenced by weather prophets and trade politicians." Whilst I was in the north of Ireland last year, I was informed that a gentleman farmer in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, co. Down, had grown flax successfully with seaweed as a manure. He informs me by letter that this is so, and gives me the method of its application and the course of cropping. It should be premised that the land is of a light gravelly nature. "The way that seaweed is used for a flax crop," he says, "is by applying it on lea land, and it has a very good effect. I have seen it cultivated successfully in a five-course crop in the following manner:—

- " 1st year—Flax on oat stubble.
- " 2nd " Green crop.
- " 3rd " Wheat laid down in clover and grass.
- " 4th " Hay or green feeding.
- " 5th " Oats with seaweed manure.
- " 6th " Flax."

It is true that there are many inland soils to which seaweed could not possibly be applied, in consequence of their distance from the shore; but seaweed is susceptible of a

precise analysis, and an equivalent and inexpensive manure might possibly be applied with nearly equal success. Flax, with an eight-course crop is certainly not prejudicial to any alluvial soil; but if it can be rotated in a five course, the profits of its growth will at once be materially enhanced. I think my last report on flax was somewhat suggestive of the danger of a flax famine in 1866, and I endeavoured to urge on our English agriculturists the future probable value of this product. To all appearance, at the present moment, the danger of such a famine is not averted; and the moderate holders of good flax seem likely to be well remunerated for the enterprise they have evinced. But let us regard the present state of all the fibred raw materials, since it is well worth while to look the matter fairly in the face. I have endeavoured to show you, sir, in this Report the present state of the cotton districts as to spindles and looms, and then the suggestion by a spinner that the manufacturers should all unite to run short time until a certain amount of cotton had been collected. I have also shown how very materially the present price of silk is interfering with the immediate activity of that trade also. Of wool I need to say nothing, for what may be the product another year, who can tell, owing to the increased use of mutton as food. I will now quote one more extract from an article on flax, which has just been going the round of the Irish papers, which appears to me to disclose the state of the public mind on the flax trade also. "If then," says the writer, "we have an increased supply of Irish flax of 176 per cent., and of imported fibre of 43 per cent., together with unusually heavy stocks at the opening of the season, to meet an increased consumption of 33 per cent., is there any ground for the present panic and fear of famine; and are the present prices justifiable?" "Present panic," "fear of famine," and the question whether "present prices are justifiable," are barometrical indications readable enough one would think, as to the state of the market for flax raw material. Mr. Darkin also writes: "Some spinners say we are on the eve of a flax famine, but others equally well informed, think we shall tide it over till the next crop comes in. Certainly, unless some unforeseen event brings about a trade revolution, the demand is likely to go on increasing, since new machinery is being introduced as fast as it can be had from the makers, some of whom, it is said, will not now undertake to deliver orders in less than two years. Generally," he adds, "flax spinning mills and power loom factories are springing up in all parts of the provinces. Many flourishing concerns have merged into limited liability

“ companies : private houses are being rapidly converted
“ into linen warehouses ; whilst, at least two more large
“ warehouses are on the eve of erection in Belfast. The
“ linen handkerchief trade is apparently leaving the country
“ districts to locate itself here. A large cotton mill, lately
“ idle, is about to be re-started under most favourable
“ auspices, and the population is increasing at a proportionate rate.”

Whatever may be said of Ireland in other respects, there has been no lack of energy in erecting scutching mills. Since 1864 they have very greatly increased in numbers, and there is still a cry for more. It appears to me of considerable importance both for Ireland and England, to all those interested in the welfare of agriculture, to consider, whether scutching mills are not really the cause, instead of the effect of flax culture. Farmers cannot grow flax profitably who have the straw far to carry or send ; and in attempting to indoctrinate the value of flax culture on the agricultural mind, we must be able to point to some adjacent factory where the material can be made ready for the nearest railway, whence it is to be carried to the best market. This appears obvious from the fact that the scutching mills in Leinster, Connaught, and Munster alone have increased since last year from 32 to 91. It is true that, whilst this increase has been going on, the acreage of flax sown in the same provinces has been diminishing. But by this accidental occurrence the question is not affected. It is not improbable that the Irish farmers had been induced in 1863, by the weight of representations made to them, and by the cost per acre obtained by particular growers, to cultivate an extraordinary breadth of land, and to produce it somewhat at random in neighbourhoods where there were neither scutch mills nor markets ; and it is not only possible but probable that, the diminished acreage sown in 1865 is to be attributed to these necessities. I myself heard a person, who declared himself to be a large farmer in the west of Ireland, which one would have thought conveniently situated enough for the flax buyers of Belfast, state that, he had on his farm three years' produce for which he had never had a customer ; and he had neighbours who were similarly circumstanced as himself : and he added “ that, he
“ would never grow another acre as long as he lived.” But such determinations will give way before the pressure of necessity for the raw material which the present rapid increase of spindles and looms is ensuring ; and as prices become more and more remunerative, and successful cultivation more and more attained, scutching mills will be erected,

flax will be grown, and convenient markets established. I think the acreage sown in 1864 may be looked upon as the result of an extraordinary stimulus given to flax culture by various outward efforts; and that it was carried far beyond either the capabilities of the scutching machinery or markets. But as markets are established and railways completed, the cultivation of flax both in Ireland and England will be steadily increased. If many such profits as that recorded in the following paragraph are demonstrable, flax culture will be an inevitable success.

"A remunerative Crop of Flax.—On the 20th inst., Mr. James Martin, of Ballyvasten, got the produce of three bushels of flax seed scutched in Mr. Joseph Perry's mill. The yield was 91 stones of dressed flax, which he sold same day at 10s. 3d. per stone, thus realising 46l. 12s. 9d. for the produce of less than an Irish acre."

With reference to the Factory Act and flax scutching mills, hitherto this process has been considered more pertaining to agriculture than to manufacture; and in consequence, those mills have never been placed under the law, however desirable that they should have been, it may have appeared. But having had strong representations made to me from time to time about them, the nature of the work to which females and young persons are subjected when employed at them, the dust they necessarily breathe, and the fearful nature of the accidents which occur in them, I was induced to seek the advice and opinion of two of the most competent authorities in Ireland on the question expressly, whether, as now constructed, and considering the machinery now employed, scutch mills are factories strictly within the meaning of the law, or not, taking into consideration the term "scutching" as defined by the 3 & 4 Will. 4. c. 103. The following are the answers which I have received, the one from Mac Adam Bro's. of the Soho Foundry Belfast, one of the most, if not the most, important scutching machinery making firms in the kingdom; the other, from Mr. Friedlander, who is a patentee of scutching machinery and a scutcher also, Knochcloughrim, co. Derry.

"Belfast, 31st August 1865.

"In reply to your inquiry, we have to express our opinion decidedly, that the scutching of flax is a manufacturing operation. When the scutching is conducted in a scutch mill altogether separate from the farm where the flax is produced, there can be no doubt about it. The men who work at the machinery are not farmers, but persons who follow the trade of scutching, which they have learned. When the scutching of flax is performed by hand on the premises of the farmer, it may perhaps be regarded

by some as an agricultural operation : but properly speaking, it is, in our opinion, even then, a manufacturing operation. Formerly, before the establishment of factories, the farmer scutched, spun, and wove his own flax, and each of these processes are unquestionably a portion of the 'manufacture of flax.' The system has now changed, and every part of the work subsequent to the pulling of the flax is done by machinery. But if a farmer still scutches, spins, or weaves, on his own premises, he is becoming a manufacturer as well as being an agriculturist.

"We are, dear Sir,

"Yours truly,

MAC ADAM BRO'S. & Co."

"29th August 1865.

"In reply to your favour of the 22nd, I beg to say that, in my opinion, the scutching of flax is entirely a manufacturing process, if done by machinery. In reply to the principal objection raised about it, that it is necessary to scutch flax just like threshing corn, to render it marketable, and that then the farmer's operation is completed, I beg to say that, as soon as the farmer gives the straw out of his hands to be done in an establishment got specially up for this purpose, it becomes a manufacturing process, and the establishment is a flax mill, and justly called so. As a rule, scutch mills in Ireland are driven by water power, and the workers are principally on piece work, and the proprietors do not care how long the workers work, if there is sufficient water to drive the mill, they having, of course, a larger profit the more work there is done. Scutch mills are very much endangered by fire, and for this reason they are built so light and inexpensive that ventilation is never taken into consideration. Though I do not think the flax dust is very dangerous, it certainly must do harm to the workers ; it would therefore be a blessing if some steps were taken to enforce ventilation. Regarding steam scutching mills, I find no difficulty whatever in keeping the 60 hours rule ; I close on Saturdays at 4 o'clock, and on week days at 6 p.m. ; and I do not see why it might not be so throughout (the trade.)

"Your most obedient servant,

JOSEPH FRIEDLANDER."

Mr. Friedlander refers to his own scutch mill, which, though not yet under the law, is worked according to law, except on Saturdays, and his testimony is also therefore of considerable value. My object in bringing these mills thus before you is, firstly, because on visiting some of them it is impossible not to notice the great detriment the labour is to the physical health of the persons employed ; secondly, because I am quite sure they are factories, altogether different to those on which the inspectors pronounced an opinion years ago, when they were deemed by them to be agricultural premises only ; and, thirdly, to relieve myself of any apparent neglect of so important a branch of my duty. The

number of these scutching mills at the present time amounts to 1208 ; and the number of persons they must employ, cannot be less than 9000 ; so that they may not longer be overlooked by me without reporting the matter more fully to you.

I have heard of one scutch mill being lately added to those which are to be found in England (and doubtless there are more), and being of considerable size, I trust it indicates a spreading opinion amongst our own agriculturists as to the value of the flax crop, and may lead to a more extended cultivation of it. The proprietor of this mill, buys the flax of all his neighbours round about him, and, indeed, of all who choose to bring it to him ; or, he scutches it for them. The facility therefore, is given to the production of flax which is exactly needed ; and the farmer's greatest difficulty of disposing of it, is overcome.

ROPE WORKS.—By the Factory Act rope works previously to 1846 were placed under regulation ; but in that year an Act was passed to remove all rope works, and works wherein power was only used to lay the lines, from the operation of the law. Now, however, all the large works where steam power is employed at all, are returning within its provisions ; for the motive power is not only applied to lay the lines but to spin the fibre. And I think it not impossible, but that, many of these rope works will eventually become scutching mills also, and find their profit not only in the better reduction of the waste to useful fibre, but the application of it as well. There are many small children employed in the largest of these rope works, whose education has hitherto been greatly neglected. Their thus coming within the provisions of the Factory Act, will be productive in many ways of the greatest possible benefit both to the employers and employed. In one rope work in Birmingham, 60 children have recently been put to school for the first time, under the law.

BLEACHING AND DYEING WORKS.—Permit me, now, to direct your attention to the operation of the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act, and to the different works that come within its provisions, or modifications of them.

These are—Bleaching and dyeing works in ordinary ; bleachfields ; calendering and finishing works, and other works, in which the processes of finishing, hooking, lapping, or making up and packing, or any of them, are carried on.

Unlike the Factory Act, which limits the employment of females, young persons, and children in all textile works, in positive terms, to between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., and 2 on Saturdays, except from March to October, when they may be varied from 7 to 7 ; and unlike the Factory Act Extension

Act, which limits the employment of all persons engaged in
Earthenware,
Lucifer matches,
Cartridges,
Percussion caps,
Fustian cutting, and
Paper staining

also to the hours and conditions of the Factory Act, with 30 months preparation for its full development, the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act, whilst primarily placing all ordinary labour in the works it regulates under factory hours and conditions, extends these hours, either in the whole works, or in any part of them, in making up time, said to be lost from any cause whatever, till 8 o'clock p.m. and till half-past 4 on Saturdays, contrary to the express understanding on which the 10 Vict. c. 29. was repealed, and the 13 & 14 Vict. substituted for it. Any reasons for the gradual introduction of restrictions on the labour of bleaching and dyeing works, must by this time have lost their force, just as in 30 months from the passing of the Factory Act Extension Act, the same reasons for continuing to limit the labour of children to 12 years for full time will have become obsolete; and the same principle of restriction should be equally applicable to both classes of workers. There cannot be a single argument advanced in favour of the one, which might not also be advanced with equal force by the occupier of every other kind of work under restriction. And if, in the legislative protection of female and infant labour, the principle of overwork is to be admitted at all, then, there appears to be no reason why, the whole factory regulations which have worked so admirably for so long a period, and produced such benefits, should not be remodelled, in order to admit of this most objectionable inlet for everything which is unfair to the honest manufacturer and prejudicial to the best interests of the working classes themselves. "Mr. Horner wrote on this subject thus, 16th May 1845:—"The enactments which prevent women from working more than 12 hours a day (less meal times), and from working in the night, except in comparatively rare cases of making up partial losses of time in mills moved by water-power appear to give general satisfaction. No instances have come to my knowledge of adult women having expressed any regret at their rights being thus far interfered with. This restriction, together with that against making up lost time by accidents to the machinery, the enactment requiring the forms of work to be regulated by a public clock, and having the same time for meals for

" all the workers in the factory, have had a most beneficial effect in preserving greater uniformity of time; and it is a matter of great importance that, in respect of the hours of work, all factories subject to the law should be on an equal footing." Nor can it be adduced now that, because there is no public demand for any alteration in the Bleachworks Act, there is no necessity to interfere with it. The operative bleachers have been suffering from a long period of depression, and are afraid to prejudice their position with their employers. But there is a conviction upon all minds that congregational female and juvenile labour must be restricted, for sanitary, intellectual, and social purposes, if for no other; and that it is not necessary to know more than the fact, that such labourers are worked for a period *de die in diem*, which the Factories Act forbids to factory workers. Take the case of the bleachers and dyers during 1865, and what was it for many months? Let one of them speak. " There has been a general push for some time in this branch of trade: the consequence has been that, the women and children have had to work without intermission, except meal times, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. for months. This has been bitterly complained of by the women and young persons, and has shown the Act to be in a most unsatisfactory state, inasmuch as it has prevented the workpeople from participating in the advantages of night schools and other places of improvement."

I think it well to requote here the language of one of the best authorities on this subject, a gentleman possessing large bleachworks, and who is looked up to by the trade for advice and opinion on all matters connected therewith.

" The present provisions for making up lost time," says this writer, " will, inevitably, be frequently evaded; and the difficulty of detection in cases of fraud will be almost insurmountable. Thus, the conscientious owner of bleachworks will work at an undeserved disadvantage; and the inspector of factories will have no alternative but to encourage a deliberate system of espionage amongst those employed, or he will have no means of checking the entries in the time book, which is open to no one's view but his own; and in which entries once made, will have an effect for six months subsequently." An operative bleacher also writes on the 1st of May last, when the time lost by the cotton famine was being made up so far as it could: " The clause of the Act allowing fetching up of lost time is working very badly for us, and is a sore grievance amongst the working people." I have had

one prosecution for this kind of overwork, and, according to my information, there ought to have been more, but for the difficulty of proving the cases on account of the law.

Mr. Horner's opinion on the variable working and meal times hours are exceedingly valuable. He writes thus, June, 1848: "It is obvious that with a power to work by
" relays of hands, and of giving meal times at various
" periods of the day, and of changing the hours of work and
" meals of every hand employed arbitrarily from day to day,
" no restriction of the hours of work could be enforced in
" the factories of artful men, regardless of the moral obligation of obedience to the law. Justice requires that,
" when the law interferes with the productive power of
" capital, all who are in the restricted trade should be kept
" to one rule as to time."

We may be told, indeed, that to repeal this lost time clause, and to substitute for it a strict adherence to factory hours, would be injuriously to affect the bleachers' and dyers' interests. But let us consider, too, the workers' interests, their powers of endurance, their loss of social comfort, the intellectual degradation of their families; and let us remember that these are considerations of a higher order than mere overwork, and of more enduring consequences. Moreover, to assume that so to limit the hours of labour, would be to destroy any branch of a particular trade, is to assume that we have arrived at the end of mechanical and chemical science, and that there remains no more capital to be expended. On the contrary, the science of bleaching has progressed so rapidly during the last few years that the quantity of goods which can now be turned off within a given time is something incredible; I am told as much with 500 hands, as a quarter of million of yards a day. In no trade already under restriction, from the longest possible hours to 60 hours work a week, has production been diminished, or have the interests of the masters been injuriously affected; whilst it has become an axiom, that overwork is never good work, seldom profitable, and always prejudicial to the physical and moral condition of the worker.

The Open Air Bleaching Act, 25 Vict. c. 8, is still more objectionable, for it professes to protect the women and children employed therein, and does not. In the preamble it admits that, with a few occupiers of bleachfields it had been the practice to employ females unnecessarily during the night; and then it enacts that, they shall not hereafter work between 8 at night and 6 in the morning. But it permits of no inspection of the works, no preliminary inquiry into the physical ability of the workers, has no

regulated meal hours, no education of the children, nor has it any of the great protective features of the Factory Act. All that it does is, to punish persons, who are detected employing females, young persons, and children, beyond the terminal periods. But as nobody knows where these works may be found, so it is impossible to tell whether the occupiers still continue to employ females "unnecessarily in the night," or during other hours than between 6 and 8; and, to all intents and purposes, this Act is inoperative, except to foster long hours, and to render void any general efforts at education among the children of the districts in which they are situated. I have made diligent inquiry of operative bleachers wherever I could, as to what would be the effect of the restrictions of the Factory Act on work in bleachfields, and have been universally answered that, "the labour of men not being interfered with, (which the Factory Act does not), there could be no possible reason why the employment of females, young persons, and children, should not be restricted to hours between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.;" women who after that hour are wanted at home; young persons who should be either at the night school or learning domestic duties, and children that ought to be at rest, no matter how healthy their employment may be assumed to be.

The Act for placing calendering and finishing works under restriction, 26 & 27 Vict. c. 38, is simply the application of the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act to such works, and the objections to it are the same.

The Act for extending the provisions of the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act, 27 & 28 Vict. c. 98, to warehouses for example, contains not only the objectionable clause just contemplated, but another, which appears to me to be even more objectionable, and is also to a certain extent antagonistic to the expressed intentions of the Act itself. It first of all limits the labour of females, young persons, and children (in places where finishing, hooking, lapping, making up and packing are carried on) to the hours of the Factory Act, *i.e.*, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., and to 2 p.m. on Saturdays; then, under the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act, it permits time lost from any cause whatever to be made up till 8 p.m. on five days of the week, or on Saturdays till half-past 4; and lastly, it gives the power to employers to elect to work any hours they like, provided the total number of hours of work, according to the Factory Act, are not exceeded, and that the hours elected to be taken lie between 6 and 6, 7 and 7, or 8 and 8 morning and evening.

But this last privilege of election is only accorded to the workers in places where finishing, hooking, lapping, making up, and packing are carried on, to the exclusion of all other workers under legal restrictions. Why? Not because the work is less laborious, or, to speak more correctly, because the confinement in one particular class of labour is less restricted than in another, (for it is the confinement as much as the labour which is physically injurious); not because the impure gases breathed are less intensified; but, because it is said to be necessary in season trades, and on occasions of emergency, that the ordinary hours of labour should be extended. Thus, in any particular district, where there may be numbers of factories, bleachworks, dyeworks, printworks, laceworks, earthenware works, fustian cutters, lucifer match and percussion cap makers, finishers, hookers, lappers, makers up, and packers, either in separate establishments, or several of them within the same curtilage, but all employing females, young persons, and children, relations, friends, companions, or neighbours, some of these leave their work at 6 p.m. to a certainty, some work on till 7, some to 8, and some till 10 o'clock, to the disarrangement of all their social enjoyments, to the avoidance of all domestic instruction, and of all night-school education, and, far worse, to the exposure of the females who work these long hours, and have to return home by themselves alone later, or in company with their fellow-workers, to dangerous temptations, of which the hour and the companions form the only needful opportunities. The head constable of one of the most important towns in my division assured me that, to the long hours of warehouse workers he could trace some of what is called the "social evil of the town under his charge." But if the difficulty of applying the same principle of law correctly to all these different occupations and departments of trade be considered, the result must be obvious. In cases, and there are many such, where two, three, or four trades are all carried on within the same curtilage, here and there under the same roof, with as many abstracts and sets of registers, how is wrongful employment to be evaded, and who shall say, if the employes will not, which are workers in printworks, which in dyeworks, which in the warehouse, and which in the factory, *per se*? In printworks, the employer is entitled to work his children till 10 o'clock at night, in dyeworks till 8 o'clock, in the warehouse till 8 o'clock, and in the factory only till 6 o'clock. It is for this reason that a master bleacher, printer, dyer, and manufacturer, as well read in factory law as anybody can be, has written within the last two months to ask for an

interview with me, in order to assist in obtaining an alteration in the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act; remarking, "that he sees clearly, bleaching and printing, under the "present Acts, cannot be carried on within the same curtilage." Why? Because the one set of workers may be employed till 10 at night and the other only till 8 o'clock.

Again, in the case of warehouses, where goods are made in a factory and finished in a warehouse which is within the curtilage of the factory, both kinds of workers are under the Factory Act, and the workers must leave work at 6 p.m.; but where the same kinds of goods are made elsewhere than in a factory, and are only brought into a warehouse unconnected with a factory, to be completed for the consumer, the workers in such warehouses, may work till 8 p.m.

There are warehouses in which cotton pieces made, say, in Lancashire, are sold to Belfast, in the gray state. After they are received, they are sent out to bleach, and on their return are patterned into collars, cuffs, and other articles of dress, embroidered and laundried. Numbers of young children and females are employed to finish, make up and pack these articles for the consumer, and yet are not under the law, because, the articles not being in the piece or yarn state, cannot strictly be called "cloth of cotton or yarn, &c.," according to the terms of this Act.

Lastly, let us take the case, of a Belfast merchant for example, in whose warehouse to-day, the hours of work may be those limited by the Factory Act, under the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act, namely from 6 to 6. He may legally work his people fourteen hours a day, with two hours for meals, under any plea of lost time. But not having lost time at the moment, and yet being busy, he may to-morrow elect to work from 7 to 7, and the following day from 8 to 8; but if he does, he must forego the privilege of making up lost time, however busy he may be, because the law does not permit him to make it up in the morning, only at night.

Of this Act Mr. Darkin reports with reference to Ireland: "In this district many places to which it applies scarcely "require supervision, while there are a great number of "workers, not under its provisions, whose interests really "require supervision. Such being the case, strange "anomalies are constantly presenting themselves. Many "places full of workers, close and confined, are not under "the law; while a fine, large, clean neighbouring building with very few hands, is subject to its provisions. "The reason why these places are exempt is, because, the

“ workers are not employed on cloth as cloth, but on fragments of cloth in course of formation into various articles of wearing apparel. Warping, winding (without power), marking, embroidering, with the sewed muslin hands, are thus exempt.”

With these, the shirt makers of Londonderry and elsewhere, and the clothing factories of Limerick, reported upon by the Children's Employment Commissioners, may be classed. I am asked to bring especially under your notice the following petition from Londonderry:—

Londonderry, 6th January, 1866.

TO THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF FACTORIES FOR IRELAND.
SIR,

Believing you have the power to help us in the following matter, we implore your aid, and pray that you will give us the benefit of the Factory Act.

In this city there are three large factories wrought by steam power; in each of them there are employed upwards of 600 females from 7 and 8 years of age and upwards. The set hours of labour is 9 hours, but a system has crept in of late of working us every other night till 8 and 10 o'clock, so that we are debarred the privilege of evening education and of innocent recreation. Besides, we consider that it has a very demoralising effect, and we think it very hard that children of such tender years should be confined for such a length of time. Hoping that you will be pleased to exert your power in our behalf,

We are dear Sir, yours respectfully,
some of the Operatives.

P.S.—We have not signed our names for reasons that will be obvious to you.

At this time there are 29 linen warehouses in Belfast under the law; and 18 that are exempt because, only employing males over 14 years of age.

The general hours of work elected are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but in reality, work commences at 8.30 or 9 a.m., and stops at 7, and only occasionally continues till 8 p.m.

This is one of the anomalies of this Act. But the principal one is, that, whilst it gives this power of election of variable hours of work so that a master may shift the labour of his workpeople every day if he likes, backwards and forwards at pleasure on writing to that effect to the inspector, the 13 & 14 and 16 & 17 Vict. expressly forbid any female, young person, or child being employed before 6 a.m. or after 6 p.m., or after 2 on Saturdays, except in the winter months, when they may be employed instead, from 7 to 7. How much better would it be if the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Acts, the Printworks Act, and the Laceworks Act were all repealed, and the workers in the works they now regu-

late, and in all other new works to be henceforth regulated, were placed under the Factory Act Extension Act, so that equal justice might be dispensed to them all, equal advantages be given, and the law be rendered not only less obscure, but clear and simple.

I am far from wishing to aver that the bleachers, dyers, printers, and warehousemen are not to be considered, and their convenience consulted. But by the Factory Act Extension Act, both would be consulted. And with how much more force might the great body of the factory occupiers themselves demand to be heard for special privileges, if any are to be granted, than the comparatively few persons to whom these later Acts apply. The answer which was given (not perhaps in the same words, but in meaning) to the factory-occupiers of 1839 by the Act of 1844, and by the still more peremptory Acts of 1850 and 1853, ought, in justice to be made to both appellants, namely, that the whole question of overwork is a question of appliances; and that the trifling increase of these to restore the balance of production occasioned by legal restriction, is not comparable with the benefits to be derived in every point of view, social, moral, and intellectual, from an equalization of the hours of labour of our female and juvenile population. When in Belfast last autumn, I asked several of the most practical managers of warehouses to tell me candidly, what difficulties they foresaw in an application of the Factory Act to their employments? The answer was "that if all were made alike, there could be none whatever."

It may be said, and will be urged, that additional hands on emergencies could never be obtained. My experience leads me to disbelieve in the word "never" with respect to commercial operations. Even now, in most warehouses, additional hands are temporarily engaged on emergencies, and discharged on the emergency ceasing; and another kier or two for the bleacher, another roller for the printer, and a few more hands when needed, would obviate every difficulty. The main objection to the adoption of the Factories Act Extension Act, without the elective clause, is that, in some localities, from 6 to 6 is contrary to the conventional hours of work; and that before 8 a.m. many household matters have to be transacted by the women. To this I reply that, young mothers have no business to leave their families for the factory or the warehouse; but if it is really needful, they must be content with what they can do in reasonable hours to supplement the labour of their husbands and children. There can be no justice in debarring thousands of women of home knowledge at the close of day,

for the few, to whom early rising may be a grievance. Moreover, there is a silent and daily wrong accruing to any master who works his people after the sense of fatigue commences. No female, young person, or child ever worked with the same continuous energy through the night as through the day, even when the whole day had been passed in quietude. In the days when factories ran all night I used professionally to call at the homes of the workers, to know whether they were in bed? But as closed eyes during day are the result of slumber only, (not sleep,) which is comparatively unrefreshing, so, on a visit to the works at midnight during the "dinner hour," I have found many of the same operatives fast asleep till roused by the rumbling of the engine, or the noise of the machinery in motion. I remember too on one occasion having to put a bleacher under the Factory Act who worked exceedingly long hours, with all his workpeople, among whom were many little children. He was very angry, and at first put both me and the law at defiance. I recommended him, however, to take counsel's opinion and to be governed by it, which he did, and finding he was wrong, became obedient, and on a subsequent visit said, "Sir, you have been my best friend. I used to "work from 5 in the morning till 11 at night, and I "thought the Factory Act would ruin me; but now that "you have compelled me to work from 6 to 6 with the "same room power, hands, and appliances, I get more "work and better work out of the hands than I ever did, "and I have not lost a customer."

FUSTIAN CUTTERS.—The fustian cutting shops of my division amount to 211, employing about 2,000 persons. For years past the trade of a fustian cutter has been at a very low ebb, so much so that, the workers have been nearly starving; and children have been employed at a very early age, tending considerably to reduce the wage value of the labour of adults. As a consequence, too, the education of the children has been utterly neglected, and the moral state of the neighbourhood where they resided, deplorable. Whoever reads the following address issued in 1863, may form some idea of the then condition of the fustian cutters as a body; and will rejoice that, partly by the restrictions put upon infant labour, and partly by the revival of the cotton trade, their condition is considerably improved.

"To the TRADESMEN and other INHABITANTS of WARRINGTON.

"Fellow-Townsmen :—It is with the greatest reluctance that we, the Master Fustian Cutters, are compelled to make this appeal to you, but it is in consequence of the large amount of

distress that is at present existing among us, as the following facts will testify :—For the two years previous to March last, we were in receipt of 11s. per piece for cutting velvets 100 yards in length, which is a good week's work when made from good cotton, much more when made from Surat or other inferior material. In March last we were reduced from 11s. to 6s. 6d. for the same amount of work, and out of the 6s. 6d. we paid 4s. 7½d. to the hand, leaving a balance of 1s. 10½d., which was more than swallowed in rents, carriage, holes, damages, and other expenses ; this state of things could not continue for ever ; the authorities have already visited our premises, and notices to quit our workshops have been served on us, consequently and jointly with other fustian-cutting districts, we waited on our employers, to solicit from them an advance of 1s. 6d. per piece, making the price 8s.; this we were compelled to do to keep us in existence at all as a body of workmen ; our employers kindly received the deputation, and all that were visited agreed to the request of the deputies to pay us the 8s., and a large portion of them are giving us what work they have at the advanced rate, but the quantity is very small, for it must be borne in mind that the same rule applies to us as to the factory operatives ; if there is no cotton to weave or spin there is no piece to cut ; and we do assure you that a many of us have not had employment for the last three months, or very little, and there is no possibility of us having work to any amount so long as the mills of Lancashire are silent ; consequently, this state of things is telling more on the body of fustian cutters than any other class of workpeople, whose wretched condition it is hoped will meet with the sympathy of their fellow working men, who have kindly and generously responded to a call for aid from another quarter ; and we hope and trust that this appeal from your friends, neighbours, and townsmen will not be made in vain, but that you will give us that sympathy and pecuniary aid that will be the means of relieving the poverty and disease that is fast destroying us.

“ We remain yours, on behalf of the committee of fustian cutters.

“ JOHN BROADHURST, President.

“ JAMES BARTON, Secretary.

Warrington, Feb. 10th, 1863.

“ The Committee with authorised collectors will wait on the public and at the workshops, and any donation will be thankfully received and acknowledged.”

In the month of May last, employment in this branch of labour increased ; and as the shops began to fill with work, the cutters moved for an advance in wages. This they have obtained. Velvets that used to be 14s. to cut, are now 14s. 6d. and 15s. ; patent velvets that used to be 2½d. are now 3d. a yard, and ½ths velvets have advanced in even a greater degree. There has been, however, one very serious drawback to the well-working of the Factory Act Extension

Act as respects fustian cutting, and which I strongly recommend for alteration, and it is in the definition of work, 2nd. Schedule, wherein it is enacted, "In the employment of "fustian cutting, any place in which persons work for hire," &c. In many shops in which parents employ their own families, the children have been declared not to be working for hire, and have been deemed to be exempt from the law. They are consequently not only liable to overwork, but are not required to attend school. The proportion of works which are occupied by employers and those which may be termed domestic, is as 142 to 69; so that the cutters in a large number of establishments are under no restriction whatever, and their work and wages not only materially disturb the equality of those of the larger body, but the decision to which I have referred has undone much of the good the Act was doing in this particular trade. When the original Factory Act was passed, it was not to protect children against the cupidity of masters only, but of parents also; and even yet, it is a fertile source of complaint that, some of the latter still use every means in their power to deceive the certifying surgeons as to the ages of their children, in order to have them passed for full time, to the detriment of their school attendance. The alteration I would recommend in the definition of all workers is, to omit the words "working for hire," and to substitute for them "any place in which persons are employed," whatever the trade may be. The following letter on the prospects of the fustian cutters is from a very intelligent workman who takes great interest in the application of the Factory Act to their labour:

"There is no objection to the Factory Act, except that of families being allowed to work their own children as they please.

"With respect to work and wages, the fustian cutters in all districts have lately been working five days a week, through work being so slack; but it is believed we never could have kept up prices but for the Factory Act. Work is now more plentiful, and we are going on full time again, but all male adults are only to work the same hours as women and girls. With regard to wages, I send you a list of prices which we are now receiving, and we are in hopes of having more next spring. We have not been receiving so much for many a year as we are now getting, which we believe is through the Act also. There are not many half-timers at school, but what there are, all attend school regularly."

CARTRIDGES AND PERCUSSION CAPS.—On these trades I have but little to report to you further than the observations which I have made on them under the head of accidents. I am informed that one of the Birmingham manufacturers

has been enabled to dispense with child labour by the introduction of machinery; and that another, has so separated each workwoman from the others, that, the chances of future accidents are most materially diminished.

One of the largest manufacturers of percussion caps in Birmingham, adduces this testimony to the value of the Factory Act as applied to his works. He says "that he has found a great improvement and convenience in his works since factory hours have been observed. The percussion cap fillers now earn as good wages and do the same amount of work as before; and all the workers are away at 6 p.m., instead of being kept late at night, from the desultory manner in which the work used to be done."

PAPER STAINING.—Another thing useful to amend is this; the terms used in the second schedule of the Act with reference to the employment of paper stainers are, "any place in which persons work for hire in printing a pattern in colours upon any sheets of paper, either by blocks applied by hand, or by rollers worked by steam, water, or other mechanical power." But there are persons who stain paper, to a very considerable extent, only with a brush, and employ a large number of females; and there are other persons who stain paper in the pulp. The paper stainer by the brush should certainly come under the Act, for he is as much a paper stainer as he who stains either by blocks or rollers. The paper-stainers in the pulp will doubtless come under, when the paper maker is considered. The alteration I would suggest is that, instead of as at present, the clause should stand, "Any place in which persons are employed in staining or in printing, &c. &c." to the end.

EARTHENWARE WORKERS.—I have been informed that a few of the master potters are dissatisfied with the Factory Act, and desire either a repeal or a modification of some of its provisions. They are said to find a difficulty in obtaining the number of children for two sets; and are also anxious that, education should precede labour, and that the age of the full-timer should be reduced.

The Chamber of Commerce in the Potteries, alluding to the Act and its operation, in their Annual Report, Jan. 4, 1866, advert to it in the following terms:—

"In the ensuing Session it is most probable that the Government will introduce a Bill for extending the Factory Act to trades at present unaffected. The Council urge most strongly upon this Chamber the importance of at once considering and determining what provisions of the existing Act are inapplicable, and press unduly upon the trade of the Potteries; and when this

has been ascertained, it will be the duty of the Council to urge the matter upon Government, with a view to the desired alterations being inserted in any Bill that may be introduced into Parliament. In such a case the Council feel sure that the manufacturers may rely upon the support of their Parliamentary representatives, all of whom are enrolled as honorary members of this Chamber."

Amongst a large number of persons engaged in one branch of business, and in universal competition not only with one another, but with other trades besides, it is naturally to be expected, that some difficulties should have arisen on any restrictive interference with the hours of labour of those engaged in it. If there had been no differences of opinion amongst them on the working of the Act, I should have had but a poor opinion of it. But, I think I have long since heard, all the arguments which can now be advanced against restrictions on female and child labour: and all the "suppositions," in the years which both immediately preceded and succeeded the Factory Act; and have learnt from those who had to persevere with it, whether they would or no, many of whom are still living witnesses of its merits, how completely they have recanted their former sentiments, and have confessed their deep obligations to it. There were two or three masters amongst the potters in 1864, when the Act was first put in motion amongst them, who appeared to me to have made up their minds against its success; and even now, I doubt whether these appreciate thoroughly the value of an educated class of artisans, even in a trade to which art is everything. They think it better perhaps, to drive than govern, to enforce rather than request. To my mind, nothing evinces the determination to be dissatisfied with the Factory Act so much, as to speak of its unsuitableness to the employments of a district, before it has had time to be fairly tried; for it will not be until January 1867 that, all its restrictive clauses will be brought into operation.

It may be true that, hands are scarce even at 12 years old, and therefore the law may seem, for the moment, oppressive; but that can be no reason why children of 12 should be submitted to a labour which destroys them. Or, if not quite that, is it for that reason, that society is to be punished because of these children's want of education? If the employment of a district has overgrown its labour, then is it, that the local population is to be stopped within a certain area, and immigration forbidden? One thing is quite certain, whenever hands are scarce, labour reaps the benefit of it; the drawback of

past experience to the want of education being, that that labour remains rude, and in time becomes insubordinate.

But whatever may be the present inconvenience from scarcity of hands, there are two causes already at work to remedy it. Females and children are migrating from Leek to the potteries; and machinery is about to be introduced more rapidly than was anticipated.

Mr. May informs me, in a very recent letter that, "Mr. Shaw's new factory with all its machinery, steam heating apparatus, and new stoves, is now at work, and everything answers admirably. I had" says he "all the flat pressers collected, and they, one and all, as well as the master, pronounced unhesitatingly in favour of the new system." Three more firms are also preparing to introduce it. Thus, the old system of earthenware manufacture, with its reckless expenditure of life, and disregard of morals, brought to light after so many years of comparative oblivion, is about to give place to a more profitable, because, a more extended and less costly method of production; and that which has so often happened before in other great branches of industry, is about to occur again, namely, that the cheaper the product, the greater the consumption, and a consequent greater demand for labour in every department.

I am aware that in the Potteries at present, the skilled workman has to pay a little higher rate of wages to his assistant than he did a year ago. But this is quite a temporary inconvenience, to result in a higher rate of wages generally, and the distribution of that rate among the consumers. Mr. Buller informs me that when he was at ——— the other day, the china warehousemen there who have dealings direct with the Potteries told him, that the price of all china has gone up 15 or 16 per cent. since the Factory Act.

But supposing this were not so, I think it is clear that it is only in the increased employment of short-time children the present pressure will be relieved at all. There are now 1,625 children at school as half-timers. Of these we have a record of the ages of 563 when they first attended school on the 1st of January 1865. Only 11 were at that time 12 years old, and are therefore 13 now; and only 104 were 11 years of age, and are therefore 12 now. If the statutory limit of age was thus to be reduced to 12 for full time, the total number of hands (assuming the same comparative ages to be found in the remaining 1,062 of whom there is no record, as in the 563 of whom there is,) Digitized by Google

to be added to full employment from the school children, could scarcely exceed 350; a number which would be utterly insignificant, when scattered over the Potteries, towards the object intended to be gained; since it may be taken for granted, that all the children already obtainable at 12 years old are in work.

Moreover, a scarcity of juvenile labour in the Potteries is not wholly to be attributed to the Factory Act. They lie within an area covered with coal and iron works, which are every year increasing, employing juvenile male labour to a great extent; and thus, enter into competition in the labour market with earthenware works. The operation of both these causes may produce the scarcity, but neither of them individually; and this scarcity is not felt so much by the larger masters as by the smaller, whose wages may be paid somewhat irregularly at times, and who do not equally regard the comforts of their workpeople. Mr. May says: "I have myself met with instances, and heard of many more, in which boys were retained in the service of bad masters by the habitual retention of a part of their small earnings; and a labour market thus badly supplied, and offering few attractions beyond facilities for very early employment, is sure to feel severely the first stress that may be put upon it, especially when it comes in the form of an age qualification."

"The number of children," continues Mr. May, "under 13 years old employed in the Potteries in 1864 was 3,913; at that time the ironworkers were on strike, and the collieries only partially at work; the demand for labour, also, was below the average, in consequence of the American war. The Act therefore could not have been introduced at a more favourable moment. On the 1st of January 1865 the number of children at school under 11 years of age was 1,063, so that, deducting say 1,000 from the former number, for those between 11 and 13, we may conclude that 1,850, or nearly half, were either discharged by the masters, or withdrawn from work by the parents, immediately that the half-time system was put in force. A considerable number of these were, no doubt, absorbed by the collieries and ironworks, as they were gradually restored to activity, on account of the higher rate of wages they could obtain; and others either went to school altogether, or to other occupations, where they could receive higher wages than those for full time as potters.

"On the termination of the American war, the wages of children, both full and half timers, immediately rose considerably, and began to attract not only those who had previously been employed in the banks, but the children also of those parents, who had been kept from full-time work as too laborious. The workmen also began to encourage child labour, and themselves to perform a larger portion of the laborious work; and the employers, having

suffered from a deficiency of hands, began to encourage the half-time system. In April 1865 the number of children increased to 1,366, whilst now it is 1,623; a result which is conclusive, I think, that the main difficulties have been overcome, and that the new order of things has been submitted to, not quite accepted, and only requires time and perseverance for its full fruition."

As a mere labour question, therefore, the reduction of age to 12 years would be useless; whilst as a social and moral question, it would be incalculably injurious. It is consequently, the policy of the manufacturers, to add all the short-timers they can to their establishments, in order to increase the total number of workers, and thus make void the scarcity; or to supersede it by machinery, if they desire their trade to be still further extended.

I am in hopes, however, when it is shown them that public opinion is unwilling to recede from a great success, and from an established principle of the utmost importance to the masses of the workpeople, for the sake of anticipations only which are never likely to be realized, and when they have heard all that the independent witnesses have to say which I have yet to bring forward on behalf of the Factory Act and the half-time system in particular, the few potters who now object to legislative interference, will, like the manufacturers of former days, advance with the times in which they live, and patiently wait for the result, not of an experiment, but of that which is an established fact, namely, the benefit of legal restrictions on factory labour. They cannot deny the former state of the Potteries as a group, which first their own Chamber of Commerce, then the Children's Employment Commissioners, and lastly, I have reported. They cannot disavow the former insanitary and often filthy condition of their works, nor underrate the vital statistics by which the mortality in the potters' employment has been shown so greatly to exceed that of other industrial occupations. They cannot but observe the marked improvement in the general physique of the young workers, nor the evident effect of school on the children's characters, even when they are at work. They may not be able to account for the altered tone of their conversation, nor understand how it is that infant and juvenile oaths are not so frequent as formerly. But in a few more years they will; and remembering the past with regret, will be thankful that their wishes in respect to the modifications they now seek, were not acceded to.

The prominent evils of the potters life before 1864 were, —

- 1st. The employment of very young children, and the long and irregular hours of the female labourer.

2nd. The want of cleanliness and ventilation in the works, &c.

3rd. The neglected education of the children employed.

I purpose now to deal with these three questions, not as to what they were, but what they are, as the result of the 16 months operations of the Factory Act in the Potteries.

In respect to the first proposition, I need hardly say that the employment of very young children and the irregular hours of the female labourer, are, the one, discontinued altogether, and the other, being superseded as fast as possible. In the record of the ages of the children who have been at school since 1864, I see there are six or seven who were registered by their own testimony as 7 (*i. e.* over 7) when they first attended school. These are all now over 8 years; and I am not aware of any child not being 8 years old having been admitted to work since August 1865. Of the physical effect of restriction more will be learnt when I refer to schools. In this place I only offer the sentiments of one of the certifying surgeons on this subject, who writes, "Since the introduction of the Factory Act, a visible improvement has taken place in many of the work rooms, and an impetus has been given in the right direction for removing, or at least ameliorating considerably, the evils existing in certain departments of the trade. The improved method of making slip by pressure instead of by evaporation, the newly constructed stoves for drying the ware in its green state, the introduction of machinery for turning the lathes, are each events of great importance in the pottery art, and mark an advance which the preceding century could not rival. But it must be borne in mind that, these improvements though carried out fully in some establishments, are by no means general, and are not capable of being brought into use in many of the old manufactories without an expenditure of capital beyond the means of many of the present occupiers. I do not find that the frequent changing of places amongst the children and young people, lessens. This rambling propensity cannot arise from caprice alone. When a workman removes, it is natural to suppose he will take his assistants with him, and this seems desirable for all parties. But other causes are no doubt in operation which are much to be deplored. Amongst these, the most frequent I have heard are the following: 'The master was off drinking,' 'My master would not pay me my wages;' 'My master laid on me (beat me);' &c. No doubt there are bad children as well as bad workmen, but I am persuaded there

" is too much ground for complaint on this head. Work is
" now very good here, every available place is engaged ; but
" there is much complaint of shortness of hands of the juvenile
" class. This deficiency will, I think, shortly be removed,
" partly by the influx of hands to the ironworks which are
" being rapidly constructed all around us, and partly from
" other sources. The Factory Act has been too short a time
" in operation amongst us to have produced much fruit at
" present, but, in spite of the temporary inconveniences it
" has occasioned, no unprejudiced person can doubt that it
" will ultimately be the means of incalculably benefitting the
" condition both morally and physically, of thousands around
" us."

When I refer to the continued irregular and even long hours of labour of some females in earthenware, it is in allusion to the tobacco pipe makers only ; in which (being mainly a domestic trade) some of the men continue to worship Saint Monday, drink on Tuesday, and compel their wives and female assistants to work late hours at the close of the week to finish an average week's work. A little patience, and these difficulties too, will be overcome. I was obliged to prosecute one such manufacturer in Dublin, who put the law and the officers at defiance, but whose experience has since rendered him obedient and docile.

Mr. Sub-Inspector May has, as you are aware, the pottery district assigned to his superintendence, and I requested him to report to me at the close of the year his experience of results in the working of the Factory Act ; and I have the gratification to render to you the greater part of his report, which deserves, by its judicious tone and impartiality, to receive especial attention :—

" I cannot but rejoice," he writes, " that, notwithstanding the temporary disorganization which inevitably follows the introduction of such a measure (as the Factory Act Extension Act), and is, indeed, directly indicative of the evils which it was intended to remedy, I am not only able, after so short an interval, to describe the results (of restrictive legislation) as extremely beneficial, but also to appeal, in support of my opinion, to a large number of those who are directly interested in the question. The disarrangement of trade usages, which have grown with the growth of the trade, has undoubtedly caused more or less inconvenience to many masters and workmen ; and this, in many instances, has been attended with pecuniary loss ; and although most of them who suffer may be conscious that their present damage is the penalty for past neglect, and be also convinced that it will result in permanent benefit, yet inconvenience and present loss are hard to bear upon compulsion ; while, therefore, I should be unjust, if I did not testify to the general fairness with

which the subject has been discussed in my hearing, I should also be ungrateful if I failed to acknowledge the almost invariable courtesy, kindness, and straightforwardness which have been shown towards me both by employers and workmen."

"In very many potteries I can hear of no objections whatever (to the Factory Act), nor of any inconvenience, except a temporary scarcity of juvenile labour. It is true that in most of these (banks) some of the regulations enforced had been previously more or less closely followed; the hours of labour had been either strictly or nominally limited; work during meal times had been discouraged, and the employment of very young children had been discountenanced; but, on the other hand, I know of two establishments only in which the prohibition of 'overtime' had been absolutely enforced, and none in which the meal times had been strictly preserved from encroachment.

"The masters who pronounce themselves entirely uninjured, and advocate the maintenance of the law in exactly its present form, are such as had previously departed in nowise from the general customs of the trade; and I am forced, therefore, to the conclusion that the inconveniences now suffered both by masters and men may be measured not only by the evils previously existing in their workshops, but by the honesty and earnestness of their endeavours to carry out the legal means for their removal."

At first it was doubtful, how far the earthenware manufacturer would change his working hours in the winter months from 6 to 6 to 7 to 7. As a rule, however, it has become general, with only, two exceptions. In those, Messrs. Wedgwood's of Etruria, and Messrs. Wileman's of Fenton, the choice of hours was left to the hands, and in both banks a very large majority decided in favour of continuing the work between 6 and 6. Many of the females employed at Messrs. Wileman's accounted for their vote by saying, "that their husbands, having become accustomed to their early return home during the summer, would not now consent to forego the comfort and advantage they had thence derived;" and to avoid such a sacrifice the wives were willing to come to work early in the morning. Mr. May then goes on to say, "practical objections to the legal limitation of working hours are addressed, (by the potters) to the actual reduction of the usual hours of labour, to the prohibition of occasional overtime, and to the absence of any provision of making up lost time." But a working day of 10½ hours is surely sufficient for females and young persons. It is half an hour beyond the conventional hours of almost all labour but that which is purely domestic, and was conceded on mutual compromise years ago. The enforcement of this limit and that of Saturday afternoon constitutes the charter of the Factory Act. I have not much doubt about its application

being extremely welcome to the adult workman also, and in fact, the tendency towards $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours daily work is becoming universal. The case of the printers on earthenware is illustrative of the desirableness of this proposition, as exhibited also in the case of the warehouse workers of Belfast: and of the whole question of overtime being one of appliances only, as I have before stated. "Mr. May adds, "the masters themselves have told me that, previous to the introduction of the Act, their printers and assistants were "in the habit of working 72 hours a week, frequently "making 14 hours and upwards on Thursday and Friday. "The reason of this was that, being short of printers, it was "necessary to overwork them, in order to keep pace with the "other branches. The potters say, 'they can and do produce "as much under the Act as ever they did before, because "they come earlier and lose less time; but the printers can't "do this without larger premises.' On the other hand, "the foreman of the printers in one of the largest potteries "of the district, but where the average hours of printers "work do not exceed $62\frac{1}{2}$, assured me they produced quite "as much work now between 6 and 6 as ever they did "before; and he referred me to one printer as an instance, "who had formerly frequently worked as late as 9 p.m., "and now under restriction received quite as much wages "as ever. 'The men work better' he said; adding, " 'There's a certain amount of work in a man, and when that's "out it's all he can do.'

"The principal of another firm now working between "6 and 6 assured me that his gilders and burnishers used "frequently to work till 8 and 9 p.m., but that they earn "quite as much wages now as ever they did, though they "do not come much earlier in the morning. 'They work "better' he said, 'and play less;' and he concluded by "observing: 'I have often talked with my partner upon the "matter, and agreed with him that, we would not part with "the Factory Act on any account.' Mr. Campbell, of the "firm of Minton and Co., the high character of whose "manufacture gives his opinion peculiar value in this "respect, has informed me that, since the Factory Act, the "quality of their ware has been improved; and that they "have less spoiled ware since the greater regularity of "work has put a stop to hurried production.

"With reference to day wage people, such as warehouse "women, the manager of a large firm told me that he had "been afraid he should lose on his day wage people through "the Saturday half-holiday, but finds, after an exact calculation, he will gain a few hours per annum."

I think a curious but satisfactory proof of the change in the present habits of the potters, whom, as I reported last year, used to play or drink on Mondays and Tuesdays, and then work long hours at the close of the week, has just been afforded by the secretaries of one of the gas companies, who states that, "though there was a considerable reduction in the evening consumption of gas during last winter, it was nearly balanced by the increased morning consumption during the same period."

"But," continues Mr. May, "even among those who admit the propriety of the general limitation of hours, there are some who stoutly advocate the permission to work occasional overtime, not meaning time lost. The majority, however, both of masters and men perceive that, such a permission would open the door to endless abuse, and, in a great measure, neutralize the Act itself. I have received several applications from firms with special orders on hand, asking whether, under such circumstances, an extension of time is not permitted, and I have conversed with some that desired to make occasional overtime in some one branch. But when I have suggested that there must be some disproportion between their clay department and those named, they have admitted there was, and though unable yet to rectify it, they had no doubt of being able to do so under a brisk trade. It is a satisfaction to know that, notwithstanding such instances, the general good sense of the trade acknowledges the allowance of occasional overtime to be incompatible with the fundamental principle of the Act."

The observations of the potters on the power of recovering lost time from any cause whatever, as in the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Act, are well worth consideration with reference to what I have previously said on this Act. "A considerable number of persons advocate a provision for the recovery of lost time in one form or other. In those potteries where steam power may hereafter be introduced, this question will soon approximate to its position with respect to textile factories. But, where all processes outside the slip house are performed by hand, a great difference is stated to exist between the condition of labour in potteries and textile manufactories, and should be specially provided for. If a thrower, for example, goes drinking for a day or two, every branch must stand still; or if a dipper, the oven is delayed, and the whole bank is thrown out: in either case, the time, lost through the neglect or absence of the all-important workman, should be recoverable," say they. I cannot reply to this argu-

ment, adds Mr. May, "in better terms than those employed
" by two potters who, I believe, expressed the opinion of
" a large majority of the trade. Being asked whether they
" would advocate the recovery of lost time under those or
" any other circumstances, one gentleman replied, no; it
" would be offering a premium for drunkenness: and another,
" who is entirely in the export trade, and was at first
" strongly opposed to the introduction of the Act, assured me
" that restriction had in no-wise interrupted his business, and
" that, in his opinion, the power to recover lost time would
" undo a great deal of the good which he acknowledged the
" Act to be now doing. The same kind of reply has been
" made to me by manufacturers in all branches of the
" business; and I am convinced that a great majority, both
" of masters and of the respectable work-people, would
" consider any approximation to the provisions of the
" Bleach works Act in this particular an economical error,
" by weakening the power of the law to compel habits of
" regularity, without which they must always work at a
" disadvantage."

CLEANLINESS.—In my Report of October last, I referred to the extraordinary state of some of the banks, not only with respect to their architecture, but to the utter want of cleanliness, and to their most insufficient and ill-contrived means of ventilation. I need not repeat what I then advanced, because not only were the facts indisputable, but the law had provided especially for both these evils, for the first time in the history of factory legislation since 1833. The number of chest diseases, and their extreme fatality, arising partly from the variations of temperature during working hours to which the workers were exposed, coupled with those habits of dissipation which are so certainly initiative of pulmonary disease, had long been observed, both by resident medical men, and made patent by the vital statistics of Staffordshire. To the heat of the stoves, the low and filthy rooms heavily charged with impure atmospheres, and to the entrance of cold piercing winds at certain seasons of the year through broken windows, were justly to be attributed much of the mischief attendant on the working potters' occupation. The death rate of the scourers, too, was and is, I regret to say, one of a very painful character. Perhaps we have not yet arrived at the most appropriate method of relieving the air near the scourers' bench of the particles of flint which are so prejudicial to mucous membranes. And yet I trust that, we are on the eye of certain great sanitary improvements in the potteries;

and that before another year has passed away, it may be my gratification to report that a very great deal in this respect has been accomplished. It was one of my first instructions to Mr. Sub-Inspector May, on introducing him to the Potteries district, that he should direct his attention earnestly and carefully to the measures which would ensure cleanliness and a better system of ventilation in the workshops; feeling confident that, before long, causes would operate to render some of the most ruinous places untenable, and to induce the manufacturers to erect new buildings more suitable to their increasing demand for accommodation, and more in conformity with the progressive strides which the trade itself is making. And then, that such buildings would necessarily involve improvements in architectural design, in trade machinery, in regulations, and in whatever could tend to relieve the earthenware manufacture of many of its present evils. This expectation, I am happy to say, not only has not been disappointed, but my desires and expectations are being realized much earlier than I could have contemplated. With respect to cleanliness, Mr. May reports to me "that lime-washing the shops throughout "has been thoroughly performed in every bank. A number "of rooms," says he, "had not been cleaned on walls or "ceiling for 20 years and upwards; very many had never "been cleaned at all; and the processes carried on in these "rooms were such, as to render an annual white-washing, "at least, indispensable. I have seen such rooms brought "to about the colour of chocolate after the fifth or sixth "application of the brush. With regard to the daily "sweeping of the steps, I am able to speak approvingly, "but a duty which depends for its due performance on a "large number of persons in each factory can only be "satisfactorily enforced by a strict and uniform system of "regulations, and now that the special rules are established "I have no doubt but that it will be accomplished. I "am gratified to be able to say that the benefits also of "cleanliness are more and more appreciated by the workmen."

I think it exceedingly desirable to point out to you that, whilst, as has been seen, old premises were wont to continue either in the hands of the same occupier, or by transference, in those of other tenants without any preliminary sanitary observance, sometimes for upwards of 20 years, and sometimes entirely, now, under the Act, Mr. May has been called in on three separate occasions to advise the necessary drainage, ventilation, and cleanliness, before the new-comers have taken possession. This is attributable, I daresay, to a prosecution

of some new tenants for neglecting to place their works in a sanitary condition. Their defence was, that the landlord had agreed to do all that was necessary before they entered, and they called upon Mr. May to enforce this agreement. The landlord, on his part, made some excuse for not performing his covenant. But it was clearly no part of our duty to settle differences between landlord and tenant; I therefore directed the occupiers to be prosecuted, and left them to seek their remedy at the hands of their landlord for non-performance of his agreement.

VENTILATION.—In my Report for October of last year, the deaths among potters from bronchitic diseases were brought under your notice as attributable, in the main, to the heat in which they worked, and to the habit of drunkenness which that heat more or less occasioned. I quoted the evidence of Mr. Bilston, the manager of Messrs. Copelands' works, to Mr. Longe, one of the Children's Employment Commissioners, which I now repeat:—"The greatest good the Legislature could do, if it were possible, would be to bring about a change in the present system of stoves. I think the heat they occasion is the great evil of the trade. I believe it is the cause of the drinking habits, as well as of the debilitated constitutions which prevail amongst potters." I might also have quoted much other testimony to the like effect. But personally experiencing some of the inconveniences of these hot stove rooms during my visits to the potteries, whilst watching the little mould runners of both sexes darting now into a temperature of 120°, then into another probably at 60°, and lastly into the open air, I not only required there and then certain alterations to be made in the mode of ventilation, such as double doors opening both ways, and barred ventilators near the ceilings of each room, but I specially directed Mr. May's attention to this subject. Mr. May has advanced a good way further than my recommendations, and has suggested that the stoves themselves should be ventilated, by which means a great deal of what Mr. Bilston sought to remedy has been accomplished, not only without inconvenience to the work, but with a great practical economy in fuel.

"The potters' stoves," he writes, "are, as you well know, the principal source of disease among a large class of workmen. A full-grown man who perspires profusely at saucer making, and strong lads who do the same while carrying a mould or two to and fro, though half-naked, are painful illustrations of what recklessness and want of thought, or of wisdom, can do towards converting an employment not necessarily unhealthy, into a guaranteed early death. Two things seem only requisite in order to

“ reduce the injuriousness of the old stove system by at least one-half, namely, thorough ventilation and enclosure. The heated chamber being completely cut off from the workshop, and independently ventilated into the open air, the escape of impurity into the shop is almost entirely precluded; and not only does the atmosphere of the stove itself become comparatively harmless, but its intended use is far more efficiently and economically performed.

“ The prejudice that existed amongst potters in favour of the closed drying stove is best shown by the fact that, twelvemonths ago, there were certainly not more than a dozen potteries in this district in which the stoves were even partially ventilated, and not one, to the best of my knowledge, in which the principle of stove ventilation had been thoroughly carried out. Now, the majority of flat presser's stoves have been thus treated.”

Mr. May gives the following testimony of workmen to the efficiency of stove ventilation:—

“ John Oaks, cup maker, states that his stove has been ventilated by a wooden pipe passed through the roof; his stove was very hot and dusty before, to the great injury of himself and his lads. He expected that ventilation would injure his stove, but he finds that his cups dry more regularly, that he consumes half the fuel he used to consume, and the heat does not come out into the shop.”

“ Thomas Leech has had his stove similarly ventilated. The thermometer used to stand at 125°; his health suffered very much. He finds the new system of ventilation a great improvement in comfort and health. The dust and impurities from the stove do not escape, and the heat does not enter the shop; the heat is reduced one-fourth, and the fuel also; the ware dries as well or better.”

Mr. Bagueley, a master, also says: “ I put two ventilators into my stove room, which caused considerable improvement, but I find, on adopting your suggestion of increasing the number of ventilators, additional improvement. I have put in two others, and I find that, by means of this increase of ventilation, only one-half the fuel originally consumed is now required. The impure (moist) particles of air being carried off, the residue is left much drier, and the consequence is that the ware is much more regularly dried, and, by closing the door at night, the atmosphere of the shop is rendered much more agreeable and comfortable to the worker (in the morning).”

Improved forms of stoves, Mr. May tells me, are also slowly gaining ground, six different models having been exhibited in Hanley during last summer, five of them being now on practical trial.

NEW WORKS.—One result apparently hastened by, if not accruing from the Factory Act, to be anticipated indeed from the mere publicity of the details which the whole inquiry into the condition of earthenware manufacture has evolved is, the erection of new, substantial, and (so far as they can be devised) complete works. Four of these are in course of erection, one, being partially occupied already. In each of them are to be found abundant signs of progress. Each has a steam engine attached to it; and though in one case, power will at present be applied in the slip house only, in the others, it will be used for many of the branches of manufacture. The rooms in all these new works, are lofty and well ventilated; and in two of them, a place has been set apart for those workpeople to dine in, who take their meals on the premises.

One great difficulty anticipated both by masters and men has certainly not occurred, *i.e.*, a difference in touch and style of the afternoon set of children on the labours of the morning set. A considerable number of children, Mr. May informs me, are now employed as paintresses in double sets, and no difference in work is perceptible.

DIPPERS.—As the dippers' process was one which called forth special inquiry by the Children's Employment Commissioners, I should add that the dippers generally have been supplied with the means for personal cleanliness; and in one bank at Burslem a room fitted up with washing apparatus and table and seats has been specially set apart as their dining room.

WAGES.—On the 23rd of September last the "Pottery Examiner and Workman's Advocate" headed one of its leading articles with the following sentence:—

"The Progress of Hiring. More Advances.—From all districts we are cheered with the encouraging news that advances of prices are being obtained by merely asking for the same. The dearth of labour has placed all branches in the most independent position."

I have before given the average rate of potters' wages per head at 15s. 3d. This was no doubt high, owing firstly to so many children having been discharged in anticipation of the Act, and second to the demand for juvenile male labour by the coal and iron works in the neighbourhood. At the present moment the following may be taken to be about the average rate, though advancing apparently:—

	£	s.	d.	
Men	-	1	4	10
Women	-		9	1½
Children	-		4	4

} = 12s. 9d. per head

SPECIAL RULES.—The special rules which have received your sanction have since been in considerable demand by the manufacturers, and the applicants have all been supplied with at least two forms to be hung up in their factories, and with copies to be distributed to their work people. I believe they will be found to be of great utility, and to fulfil the intention of their enactment.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION.—The total number of children at school under the Factory Acts, amounts to many thousands. And this is a fact well worthy of consideration; for it indicates a method, by which, in a free country a grand and universal system of national education may be carried on, without offence to the religious differences of any, and without undue interference with the liberty of the subject. Factory children belong to parents of every denomination of Christians, and in some instances to parents who, according to every outward demonstration, can scarcely be called Christians at all. Amongst those of them who were once factory scholars the education of their children in turn, appears to be highly appreciated. Amongst those who are yet unaccustomed to its discipline, it is incomprehensible, for the best of all possible reasons, namely, that ignorance appears to cost them nothing; and the produce of their children's labour, as soon as they can work, and for as long day by day as they can sustain it, helps the dissipation which to them is everything.

There needs to superintend all factory schools and especially those that are just commencing in districts to which they have hitherto been strangers, a local moral power behind the schoolmaster, to encourage him, and to help him to overcome the turbulent dispositions of those who are submitted to his teaching for the first time: and this moral power should be secular, a secular arm added to the religious one. But alas, there are many cases where neither secular nor religious power comes forward to exert itself for the wellbeing of these wild Arabs; nobody to watch the progress which in some scholars repays the teacher for his disappointments in others; and thus, that which is supposed to be education, often becomes neither more nor less than a counterfeit.

Continued analyses of the progress of factory schools confirm the belief which I have often before expressed, that children who have attended infant schools until they have acquired the rudiments of learning before they commence to work, make equal progress, in education combined with labour, with those that never work; whilst those who attend school for the first time when work begins, are always a year or

two behind. I state this as a rule. There are doubtless exceptions to it. The reason of it is, I think, obvious. The labour of half a day is sufficient physical employment for a child (I speak of the cerebral wear and tear). The necessary attention to the precise motions of the machinery, or to the work at which it is engaged in order to keep its labour contemporary with that of the adult employ  s, becomes fatiguing enough in that time. The change to school for the other half, and the interest taken in momentarily new ideas on subjects which are freshly submitted to the mind, produces rest, a rest which is far more congenial than idle rest ; whilst the discipline of labour carried into the school, absorbs all that time which a child at school from morning to night loses, in its vain efforts to relieve itself from the fatigue of school monotony. Hence my earnest desire to see the teaching of the working classes descend to the earliest age, and school begin, almost with the first lisplings of words.

“Education does not commence with the alphabet. It begins with a mother’s look ; with a father’s smile of approbation, or a sign of reproof ; with a sister’s gentle pressure of the hand, or a brother’s noble act of forbearance ; with handfuls of flowers in green and daisy meadows ; with birds nests admired, but not touched ; with creeping ants, and almost imperceptible emmets ; with humming bees and glass bee-hives ; with pleasant walks in shady lanes, and with thoughts directed, in sweet and kindly tone and words, to mature to acts of benevolence, to deeds of virtue, and to the source of all good—to God himself.”

And if mothers’ work is essential to the commercial prosperity of a country or a locality, or even to provide for the necessities of a family, so much the greater necessity is there, that her children should be cared for and watched over during her absence. Perhaps we owe as much of our crime as our greatness, to education. The former however, is the result of education in the streets ; the latter in our public schools. I say public schools, and I would add, under certificated teachers ; for in my experience there is no greater mistake in attempting a national system of education for the working classes, than to leave unexamined, for efficiency and proficiency, those so-called schoolmasters and mistresses, who teach much of what has to be afterwards untaught, if it be possible, before the subjects of it can begin to reap the benefit of such other schools as are now open to them.

“It will be a long time,” says Mr. Horner in his report “for May 1847, before the public mind is sufficiently advanced on the subject of education, to call for a law that shall prevent any one from exercising the calling of a teacher, without a licence in proof of competency. And

“ there is therefore no way by which the poor can be protected against the losses and disappointments to which they are subjected by these ignorant so-called school-masters and mistresses.” “ And if,” says Mr. Saunders, in his report for January 1844, “ parents, even in a majority of cases, when called upon to act, would be found willing, or capable, of exercising a sound judgment, as to the education their children should receive, there can be no doubt that a free choice of the school should be secured to them. Experience, however, proves unhappily that, generally speaking, parents care little about the school that should be selected, nor are they from their own previous instruction capable of appreciating a good education, or of knowing in what it consists.”

In this Report, I have shown in the table on the cotton trade, the proportion between the schools in which factory children are educated, under government inspection, and those that are not; and the sum is as 281 to 58, or nearly one-fifth.

I think (I may be wrong however) that, the early educational course of the working classes, should be as uniform as possible. Vary it as you will afterwards, stop here, go on there, diverge or diversify, the elementary teaching should be one and the same. We should therefore destroy ignorant teaching, and insist that, after a given period, no person shall be allowed to keep a school of any kind without being duly qualified, and without having undergone an equivalent examination even if it were for a dame school; for then, character would form an element of inquiry, as well as fitness. It only renders a national system of education more difficult of accomplishment by the opposition it has to contend with, so long as any man or woman, however ignorant, is at liberty to turn schoolmaster or mistress, and to indoctrinate the minds of their pupils as they please. The parents of the poor are not alive to the advantages of systematic over immethodical teaching. They have no idea that monitors are learning whilst they are instructing others; nor, that it is an advancement of its own knowledge for a child to lead a class. So they send their children to the cottage school, and pay for disappointment. It is this competition between pence and learning, that is the great antagonist of our present national system of education. Let us by all means have a competition, but let it be a race between excellencies, and not between ignorance and knowledge. The sophisms of the one are more attractive to the illiterate, than the syllogisms of the other.

We insist upon a long course of reading, and upon severe examinations for divinity, for medicine, or for law, and we prosecute those who practice any of these professions without certificates of their qualifications. Why, then, should we not carry the same care downwards, even to the dame school? And though there may seem a hardship in such a sentiment, another perhaps of those "infringements of liberty," (which are not hurtful, though with which, the age may be rightly tenacious about interfering,) namely, an attempt to restrict the only exertions on which an unfortunate person can fall back, yet, the real hardship belongs rather to the child which fails in obtaining knowledge, and to the parent that expects it as a return for his hardly earned outlay, than upon the unfortunate. And that liberty is dearly bought, which narrows the intellect of even one human being into the smallest possible compass, and by a sheer disregard of consequences, eventuates both temporal and eternal ruin.

It is scarcely surprising to find in some districts where numbers of children are engaged, as for instance in Birmingham, how much dependence is yet placed upon Sunday-school teaching. Most of those you ask "whether they can read" inform you that they can, and that "they go to school on Sundays;" and so even yet, in most places unaffected by the Factory Act, the Sunday school is the working child's dependence, notwithstanding there are so many and such efficient day schools around us. It is time, however, that we began to think of abandoning this dependence. Forty years ago, when there were very few good public schools anywhere for the working classes, Sunday schools though but a makeshift for a great national neglect were most useful; but now we ought to betake ourselves to the good old fashion of parents taking their own children to places of worship on a Sunday, and of parents and children worshipping God together. It is quite true that hundreds of masters and workers will tell you "that all they know they got at the Sunday school." But that was when there were comparatively no day schools; and the idea remaining, that the education given in a Sunday school is still sufficient for all the purposes of life, (the combination of infant labour and education not being universal,) day school education is not rendered so general as it might be. In my early life few persons devoted more of their time to Sunday schools than myself. My opinion now is that, though in some localities they may be still necessary, it should be gradually, one of the great businesses in our day schools to teach children their duty on the Sunday. We shall never otherwise get ignorant parents to take their own children to places of worship, so long as they feel that anybody else will take

them; and we sever one of the tenderest of all social ties when we assist parents to neglect the greatest of all duties, the religious obligation which they owe their families. I lately examined a girl in Wales, amongst a few others, all of whom were over 16 years of age, and said to be remarkable for the regularity and zeal of their Sunday-school attendance, whether she knew whom Jesus Christ was?—She only laughed, and answered, no. The manager believed, if she were asked in Welsh, she would be able to tell me. I bade, him ask her; but her answer was, “she knew nothing about it.” No doubt such a case might be exceptional.

With respect to parental feeling about education, I was anxious to ascertain what had been the general conduct of parents in this respect during the cotton famine; and, accordingly I instituted inquiries to this effect, in two districts of my division which contain a large proportion of short-timers, and where the effects of the famine had been most severely felt.

One schoolmaster writes as follows: “During the period of the cotton famine we allowed all the short-timers who were out of work to attend the school free of expense. This was not generally taken advantage of by the parents, but about one-half of the number came tolerably regularly: and in some instances, the parents came to the school, and tendered their thanks for this privilege allowed to their children.”

A clergyman writes, September 1865: “I regret to say that during the distress we have had to receive many children into the school who were wholly unable to pay, and many are even coming now who are unable to pay anything.”

“By a statement of the number of scholars in our schools for several consecutive years, we find that the children attended more numerous during the panic than before or since. This is partly accounted for by the Relief Committee paying the fees of some, and partly by our allowing all to come who were willing, whether they paid anything or not. I cannot give the parents so good a character as I would wish; certainly, some of them are very anxious that their children should receive a good education, and see to them coming to the day schools, but many of them are very careless. Many children may be seen playing about the streets who might and ought to be at school, and would be there if their parents did their duty.”

The question of compulsory education is at present exciting considerable attention. And to those who see most of the working classes, it appears that, we are

scarcely likely to obtain a general education without it. But the question is one of extreme delicacy; and if it was put to the country, and dealt with simply in the abstract, the immediate answer by a considerable section would be, "No, let us have no compulsory education." And yet it must be admitted that there is such a compulsory education partially existent, which, without consulting anybody's feelings, has been for years in operation, has met with no opposition, answers admirably, and might be universally extended. Factory education is compulsory, and it is a condition of labour; and thousands of children are being educated in this way, and preferably so by most parents now, who, without this compulsion reasoning from experience, would never have been educated at all. Some of these scholars have risen to important and confidential offices with their employers, many are pupil teachers; all are doing well. I repeat that, a great many parents prefer to place their children in employment where education is coexistent with it, rather than in avocations where there is no education at all. So far with reference to gregarian labour. But, it may be answered, if all such labour was under the Factory Acts there would still remain a vast number of children unable to obtain education, with good schools at their very doors, such as those of widows, of sick parents, illegitimate children, and those of strangers, or of parents of vicious and intemperate habits, and this is true. These are, in fact, the intellectually destitute; and it is with such that compulsion would mainly have to deal. But compulsory education, though at first sight a very broad and to some an alarming question, may be narrowed into a small compass; for, if we subtract from the gross amount of all children of an age to be sent to school the number that would really have to be compulsorily educated, the prejudices to be combated amount to nothing. Let the Factory Act be extended gradually to its utmost limits, within the same limits compulsory education is all but accomplished. The only thing left further to do would be, that society should demand, on any application by a child for employment, a minimum certificate of education, no matter how low that minimum might be determined, anything, to show that the parents had exhibited the smallest interest in the intellectual welfare of their children before they wished them to go to work, when the cost would be least, and the poorest wages better able to bear it, and let all teachers be compelled to give that certificate on demand, and further interference would be unnecessary. The higher seminaries of learning are accustomed to give half-yearly certificates of scholarship and character; and it would

be no very great hardship, therefore, if all teachers were required to do it. There are cases I know, where the wages of the agricultural labourer could not afford even the penny a week of the infant school. But then, where the price of labour is so very low, it would seem to be more within the reach of the well-to-do, to bestow upon their poorer neighbours at least so much of an education as would enable them to read "the Book" for themselves; a power, which would bring them all within the scope of an educational certificate.

As one proof of this necessity, permit me to quote from a letter by Mr. Sub-Inspector Earnshaw, dated April 1865:—

"I heard by chance at Witney," says he, "about the extreme ignorance of the young persons in the mills, and I made it a point of careful investigation. In one small concern four out of five boys, from 14 to 20 years of age, could not even read their Bible; and throughout the whole, a corresponding state of ignorance prevailed. I was astonished, hearing so much as one does daily of the spread of schools and schooling over the country, that out of so many young men and women, three-fifths could not read at all, and the rest with difficulty. I attribute this to the discontinuance for so many years there of the half-time system. I next inquired of a schoolmaster, a very intelligent man, what his idea of the state of education amongst these people was, and he said that there could hardly be found in Oxon so ignorant a class? In the meantime, the Rector, hearing of my being in the place, and interested and curious on these points, sought me out. He told me that he and the townsmen look upon this want of education amongst these mill workers, as a serious parochial evil: that he had used his best efforts with voluntary aid to remedy it, but that from one cause or other, especially the insensibility of parents, they had proved more or less abortive."

With respect to the Lancashire schools, Mr. Sub-Inspector Bailey writes:—

"There are 37 schools in my district which have been attended by half-timers during the past 12 months. Of these, 25 are Church of England, 2 of Rome, 5 Wesleyan, 1 Baptist, 1 Wesleyan and Independent, and 3 of no particular denomination. 28 are under Government inspection, and 9 are not. One of the schools is supported entirely by a mill occupier, and another firm is erecting a large and very handsome building near their works for the benefit not only of their own half-timers, but of the children of the surrounding village. In these schools there attended during the first three quarters of 1865—

	Boys.	Girls.
March - -	820 -	516
June - -	923 -	586
September -	1,037 -	613

"If any change in the market were to produce any great activity in the cotton trade, a great scarcity of labour would be the immediate result."

You will remember no doubt, sir, how strong was the feeling against the half-time system when the Factory Act was first proposed for the Potteries; and how much preferable the age of 12 was considered to be for full-time, as under the Mining Act, with a precedent education. I have endeavoured to explain that, the right way to meet any scarcity of this kind of labour, is, not to reduce the age to 12, but to increase the number of short-timers; and I have extracted these figures of Mr. Bailey's to show the potters, how the textile manufacturers meet the difficulty, and to hold them up as an example to be followed after 30 years' experience; and that the potters may thereby be encouraged. With reference to a precedent education, it would not be difficult to show that, whilst night schools are everything that can be desired for adolescents and adults, children cannot profit by them, in consequence of the fatigue of the day's employment. This is evidently the opinion of many of the schoolmasters and mistresses, whose day schools the children attend, and some of whose opinions I have hereafter quoted; and who are by far the most competent authorities for our guidance in a matter of such real importance, as, the best and readiest mode of educating the children of the working classes.

What I look upon, however, as one of the most satisfactory results of the Factory Act in the Potteries, next to the general restriction of labour, is the increased number of children that attend school, and the evidence of physical and intellectual improvement, which they exhibit. I formerly endeavoured to show from the testimony of the teachers who had received short-timers, that after all the children had been discharged by those manufacturers who determined to get rid of them, there remained at school 1,063 in 26 private and public schools in the Potteries proper. I stated that "of this number 148 did not know their letters, 351 knew the alphabet only, 279 could read syllables only, 236 could just read, and that only 53 could read well; and I added that 1,010 of these children were evidently, therefore, utterly ignorant;" for I do not class the ability of those who "can only just read as of any account." On the 1st of January 1865 the 1,063 was increased to 1,625, upwards of 52 per cent. in 37 schools; and I have been able, with the assistance of the masters and mistresses, to trace the progress of 563 of these scholars, through the subsequent 10 months. The ages of these children when they first commenced school were as follows:—

There were 5 at 7 years old.				
„	„	61	„	8
„	„	150	„	9
„	„	232	„	10
„	„	104	„	11
„	„	11	„	12

Total 563.

The average attendance of these children during the first nine months of the year was 4·33 half days per week, and during the month of October in the same year, 4·8 half days; whilst the average weekly attendance of day scholars, not being factory workers, was 8·7 half days, showing that the half time attendance exceeded in regularity that of the day scholars. But if the average attendance was thus satisfactory, its result is even more so. The masters and mistresses of 30 schools have expressed decimally their opinions as to the average progress of half time scholars compared with that of day scholars; and their opinion is, that the former make $\frac{6}{10}$ ths of the progress of the latter. If these boys had not moved so much about, but had remained longer under the tuition of one person, doubtless these averages would have been higher.

I requested Mr. May to ask the teachers to endeavour to trace the progress of the short time children so far as they could; and he writes:—

“I have obtained from 29 teachers the names of those half-timers who have been continuously under their tuition from the 3rd of January last to the 3rd of November, with a statement of a standard under the Revised Code in which they were qualified to pass at these two dates, their educational position having been decided whenever practicable by the Government examination. The result is, that the average advance of 521 of these children, has been a small portion over one standard during the 10 months; and the standard would have been higher if several teachers had not, by mistake, included in their returns a considerable number admitted since the 3rd of January. Of these 521, 77 have advanced two, and seven, three standards. Of these last, two are stated to owe their progress to having been day scholars for some time before going to work, and two to their own diligence, and the co-operation of their parents.

“But the most striking case is that of a boy in the Stoke national school, who has passed from the first to the third standard during the 10 months, against whose name the master has recorded, ‘This boy has improved more since he became a half timer than, in twice the time before.’ His faculties appeared dormant before he began to work, when he seemed to awake, and

his progress has been rapid ever since. This lad, who is now 11 years old, had been six years in a Sunday school before going to the Potteries. Since then two of the half-timers have taken school prizes at the Stoke national school."

These are some of the independent witnesses which I had to call in favour of the half-time system of education and labour. But I have more evidence to adduce, and that the most important; because, whilst it establishes all that my October Report exposed of the street and home teaching of the Pottery population, it points to the remarkable change for the better which has made itself manifest in the character and deportment of these children since they have been brought under discipline. Nor need we doubt, but, that the change which we see at school, has had some useful result also in the homes. It may be small, but there will be some. Last year I had occasion to remark upon the effect of parental example upon the child; let us hope, in future, that this improvement in the child, may be recognized in its effects on the character of the parent.

I am about now to let the school masters and mistresses from every part of the Potteries, and without any knowledge of each other's sentiments, give their individual opinions on the effects, both general and particular, of the half-time system, as a system, physically and educationally; and I consider this evidence all important when the extension of the Factory Act is probably about to be further considered; since, such testimony cannot be tainted with prejudice either way, and cannot be in any case supposititious.

The heads under which the answers are given are as follows:—

1st. Draw a comparison between the power of application evinced by full and half timers.

2nd. State general progress of half-timers in cleanliness, order, and attention, and make any remarks which may serve to show the physical, moral, or spiritual effects of the half-time education.

The mistress of the Longton Rectory School, with 88 female scholars, thus writes:—

General Conduct.—At first the girls seemed to find their studies irksome, and to take but little interest in their education. They were careless, by no means obedient, or more or less inclined to be rude. They now seem to be gradually and steadily improving, though great firmness is very essential. Their want of punctuality was one of their greatest faults, many coming in as late as 3 p.m.; now, on the contrary, all are habitually early, and several come to school an hour before the appointed time.

2. **Personal Cleanliness and Appearance.**—Formerly, they were most slovenly in their appearance, coming to school with faces daubed with clay, uncombed hair, and presenting altogether, a most ragged and forlorn aspect, some being utterly barefoot. At the present [time their cleanliness and neatness are constantly remarked by strangers.

3. **Progress.**

(a.) **Scripture.**—Of this the majority were totally ignorant, as is shown by the fact that many were unable, when asked, to answer the question of “who made the world?” Now, they may be said to have acquired a tolerable knowledge of the more important portions of the Old and New Testaments, not only in the first, but the lower classes.

(b.) **Reading.**—About 30 could read tolerably, 15 to 20 did not know the alphabet, the remainder could manage easy words. The first class are now reading in the 4th standard, and the only ones in the alphabet are those just admitted.

(c.) **Writing.**—A few could write very indifferently, but most of them could not form a letter. Some of them now write fairly from dictation, and they all are slowly progressing.

(d.) **Arithmetic.**—None could do more than simple addition. Now, the first class are working short division, and some of the second class are in subtraction and multiplication.

(e.) **Needlework.**—Many had no idea whatever of needlework, putting in their needles in exactly the wrong direction; and those who professed to know more about it, were frequently obliged to have their work undone afterwards. Many can now make a pinafore pretty well, and take a great interest in their work. Their knitting was always very good.

4. The school was opened on the 2nd of January 1865. The first week two pupils only were admitted. The numbers went on increasing about two or three every week, till the 1st of February, when there was a great influx, in consequence of the Act coming into full operation. By the end of March there were 118 on the books, averaging from 90 to 100 in attendance. The present number is 80. The decrease is owing to so many having left for full time.

5. **General Remarks.**—Many of the parents have expressed their entire satisfaction with the general progress of their children; and, even when they changed Banks, have been desirous that they should continue at the same school. One instance shows the interest which even some of the manufacturers seem to take in this work. A child asked to be allowed to take home her slate, as her master wished to see

how she was getting on; and, on bringing it back, she said, that he had looked at her writing and heard her read, and appeared much pleased with the progress she had made in both. One nice trait in their character is the affection they seem to feel for their teachers. Many have spent some of their savings in buying little presents. Some make little ornaments of their own work; and when the children have been too poor to pay for the articles at once, they have asked for the sum which the article would cost to be deducted from their earnings. Last week a set of cups and saucers were in this way subscribed for by the girls, and given to the monitor of the half-time children; and on their being told that they must not do so much, they said "they liked" to do it, and their mothers wished it to be done as much "as they did." The real progress, however, will take place, when that part of the Factory Act comes into operation, which requires their attendance at school till 13.

National School—Country district, mixed. 55 boys, 11 girls, = 66.

Application.—I find that to imitative instruction they pay marked attention, whilst the day scholars pass it over with just a perceptible notice. The application of half-timers to the instructions given for cultivation of morals, memory, figures, and reading, is but slow, and with little interest; whilst the day scholars give most of their application to these last-named subjects. In regard to physical training, I generally find that the day scholars outstrip the half-timers in all the games and exercises during the time set apart for recreation.

Cleanliness.—The half-timers who attend this school, I am sorry to say, have not advanced much in habits of cleanliness; for they attend the school often in the same state as they leave the factory, dirty alike in person and in clothes. In fact, I have very often found it necessary to send boys home again, in order that they might put on their shoes, stockings, jackets, or neckties, and that they might wash themselves, and comb their hair. Several, certainly, have been induced to come to school clean, and these I have set up as an example to the rest, in order to try the effect of emulation; but this answers at present slowly.

Order.—The order at first was, in the extreme, bad. No proper movements could be obtained in the school after their first admission, but I am happy to say that, at the present time the order of the half-time boys in class and playground is, on the whole, good.

Attention.—The attention of the boys to their studies was not, at first, very strong; but after a short space of

time, the regular attendants showed signs of improvement, which I encouraged by advancing the most proficient of them to higher classes. This acted as a spur to the energies of others, and their attention was to a greater extent obtained. It is, at present, in a very fair state, and I may say every day increasing, both in regard to studies, behaviour, and order.

Remarks.—At the first opening of our school for the admission of half-time children, I found them to be very careless in the utterance of low language, often bordering on the profane; but this I now find is entirely stayed during the presence of the boys at or near the school-house. Again, they were extremely dirty in their habits, exhibiting the lowest class of morals by their actions. These proceedings were stayed by the better regulated body of half-timers, who, by their reports, brought their actions under my notice. I had considerable trouble at the first with boys playing truant. This also is, to a certain extent, checked, for the other half-time boys assist me materially in detecting any one thus given. The above are a few of the evils I met with. But I think that a great change has taken place amongst the boys; for the religious instruction is now attended to with marked reverence and thorough feeling; and the answers received from some show, that all the labour is not in vain. In regard to the physical, I find the boys in my school ever ready to exercise, either racing or jumping, and that this to them is a great advantage, as they study better after their recreation, and with more spirit.

2. National School.—127 boys. Town district.

Considering that the factory children have only one-half the advantages of the day scholars, and that, notwithstanding this great drawback, they make nearly the same actual progress as the latter, it is evident that they must devote themselves with greater diligence to their studies, than their apparently more fortunate schoolfellows. The question resolves itself into the following rule of three problem: Find the ratio between the powers of application of day scholars and half-time children; the latter, with only one-half the time, making 80 per cent. of the progress of the former? The result is, 1·6; therefore, the relative powers of application of half-timers is 16·10 of day scholars. This can be accounted for by the simple fact that, with only being at school for one half the day, they are always fresh, and nearly always ready and willing to receive instruction. The system on which they work, half manual labour and half school, renders each employment a rest and a relief to the other; and consequently, both, are far more congenial to the child, than would be the

case were he kept constantly at one. It is quite clear that, a boy who has been at school all the morning cannot, (in hot weather particularly) cope with one who comes fresh and bright from his work. It is true that there are some half-time boys who cannot keep pace with the dullest of day scholars; but these belong to the very lowest class of people. They never entered the doors of a school until compelled by law; and their growth has been so stunted, and their energies so stunned and blighted, by bad and insufficient food, scarcity of clothing, by too much work when very young, and, worse still, by bad example and bad companions, that they may never approach the educational standard of ordinary children. Such, however, are the exceptions and not the rule; and even these, by proper treatment, may be much improved, both in their physical and intellectual condition. The above observations are based upon the half-timers, as a body, on the average.

It is in the matters of cleanliness and order that, the greatest difficulty is found. The boys are never with the master more than 15 hours a week, and what little good he can effect in this time is often undone by his pupils living amidst filth and wretchedness. When first this school was opened, the greater proportion of boys came in their working dresses (often a few rags); and many without washing their faces and hands or combing their hair. With perseverance, the working dresses gradually disappeared, and decent apparel and clean faces came in their stead; and now, the only boys who do not change their clothes, are those who do not possess a change.

In attention, my pupils have been equal to any I have ever taught.

Wesleyan School.—Same district. Town. Mixed. Boys 6, girls 4: total 10.

My experience respecting half-timers has been rather limited, as the number which have gone through the school has been small; but as far as my experience goes, I may say, I find them in most part equal to day scholars. The fees are paid promptly. Half-timers, as a whole, are most attentive, and have a greater amount of application than day scholars. In one circumstance my routine fails as regards half-timers. Our home lessons are generally examined in a morning, so those who attend only in the afternoon, escape altogether from home lessons. In a purely half-time school this could easily be met, but where the majority are day scholars it is not easy to accomplish. I have not met with a single case of insubordination; but on the contrary, I have found half-timers exceedingly tractable and docile, and their morals equal to the average of the school.

Same District.—Private school. Boys 15, girls 8 = 23.

Some of the half-timers evince an equal aptitude with the day scholars for improvement. Some, however, have a decided repugnance to school and learning, probably from the fact that their parents do not willingly send them, and only do so from compulsion.

Same District.—Private, mixed. Boys 13, girls 3 = 16.

I find half-timers generally very short of moral and intellectual knowledge, and consequently require a greater amount of teaching than day scholars, who generally have had the advantage of early training.

Order and Cleanliness.—They require much looking after. I find them troublesome at first, but willing to learn, and when their attention is once obtained, they gladly receive instruction. And, in my opinion, if the half-time system is persevered in, and well carried out, it will be attended with much good. I evidently see it in those children who are remaining with me to the present time.

District 3.—Same town. National School, public. Boys 87.

Half-timers do not show half the application of day scholars. They have very much improved in cleanliness during the year. On their first attendance the generality of them appeared with the dirt of the pot bank covering their hands and faces, and with rough uncombed hair, so that a visitor entering the school could at once pick out the half-timers by their clayey appearance. Now, all of them come clean as far as their persons go, and many of them have two dresses, a working dress and a school dress. I find that those children who had not attended a day school before the introduction of the half-time Act are more irregular in their attendance than those who had attended one. The greater number of the children who become half-timers in my school are from the lowest class in the school. During the last year only one boy in the first class has become a half-timer. This does not arise from the fact that the children in the first class are of an age to go to work full time, for very few of them are over 12 years of age. I have great difficulty in getting the half-timers to do home work. This may in some measure account for the small progress made by the half-timers in comparison with day scholars. Judging from appearances in the playground, I should say that the Act has had a beneficial physical effect. They have much more energy in their play. It was no uncommon thing to see them standing, with their hands behind them, watching the others play; now they enter into the games as heartily as the day scholars.

District 4.—Large town. Wesleyan School, public, mixed. Boys 154, girls 61=215.

I find that the half-timers, as far as hearing, speaking, and memory go, have not nearly the power of application that day scholars have; but in anything to do with the eye, they have a greater power. For instance, put a letter on the board, and tell them to make one like it, and they will do it better than half the children in the same class in the day school; but rub it out and tell them to make one like it from memory, and they will not make it half as well as the other. Their stock of words is very scanty, so much so that, it is often difficult to make them understand anything.

In cleanliness and order, a great improvement is manifest; but the attention is not apparently improved. Of course the first two we can insist upon; but the attention must be trained before it can be exercised, even at the will of the child. It is still difficult to keep their minds fixed upon any one thing for any length of time, and that is, of course, the only way to improve in any branch of study, however elementary. The time has, I believe, been too short to call forth any remarks on the moral or spiritual effect of the half-time system; but physically it has made them more lively and energetic. In the playground they are now all alive. At first they seemed not to care for anything but sitting or lying about.

Same District.—National school, mixed. 69 boys, 42 girls=111.

The power of application seems to be greater in the half-timers than in the day scholars; but they want so much more attention from the teacher to keep this power applied in the right direction that little advantage has hitherto resulted from it. Still, as they feel the discipline of the school, I am convinced that their greater capabilities of attention will become very evident. Up to this time the half-time scheme has in this district done little more than show the need of improvement, physically, morally, and spiritually.

There is still great need for improvement in cleanliness, although there is an evident change for the better in this respect. In manners they seem to have made considerable progress. Indeed, in this respect there has been more improvement made than in anything, except order. Besides being rough and seldom using "thank you," many scarcely knew there were such words as "Sir," or "Ma'am." It may be only imaginary, but I think many of the lads' faces are decidedly less pale, and their looks more full of vivacity. Those lads that are most ignorant, change their banks the oftenest, and their schools also, thus gaining the least benefit

from the half-time scheme, and needing it most. If the returns were to embrace all the half-timers who have been in the school during the year, this fact would be more evident still. I think the real cause of this is, the parents of these children are those who either do not know the advantage of a good education themselves, and consequently set little value on it for their children, or they are such parents as care nothing for their offspring, only so far as they can use them to their own advantage. The result is, they frequently allow their children to work when they ought not, keep them away from school on frivolous pretences, or even, in some cases, instruct the child to say he has been to school when he has not.

Same District. National. 51 boys.—In the upper classes, half-timers have decidedly a greater power of application than day scholars; hence, their progress is nearly three-fourths of the latter. In the lower classes it is not so great, especially of those who come in the afternoon.

Three-fourths of the half-timers come to school clean and tidy, and would not be recognized as boys working at potteries. The remainder are young afternoon scholars, who probably have not much time to attend to their appearance, having left work an hour only before school commences.

Order.—One of the classes in the school consists solely of half-timers; the remainder, are mixed with day scholars. These latter half-timers soon acquire habits of order from the example of the others. The discipline of the half-time class, though improving, requires a great deal of attention. Except after an influx of new half-timers, no greater difficulty is experienced in maintaining the order of the school than before the admission of half-timers, even though a fifth of them never attended school before. The school is opened and closed with prayer, and I have always found the half-timers attentive. One or two cases of using bad language came under my notice in the early part of the year; instances of fighting also out of school; but both these evils have ceased.

Same District.—National. 42 girls only.—On the whole, these girls are clean and orderly, but not very attentive. The half-time children show both the necessity and the effect of the half-time system, as some of them are disobedient and unruly on first coming to school, but improve on remaining there.

Same District.—Churchschool. Girls 10.—The half-timers come to school now very clean and neat in their appearance, with perhaps only one exception. There has been great improvement in this respect during the year. One girl only

went to school for any length of time before the half-time Act came into operation. They are now tractable and orderly. From the information I have obtained, the majority of these girls would never have attended school for any lengthened period had it not been for the half-time system.

District 5.—Country. British school. 27 boys.—The majority of my half-timers appear to have quite as much or more power of application than the day scholars. They seem not disposed to trifle as long as they have work to do. I ought to add, however, that, in the hot afternoons of summer, many seem tired and more sleepy than the other scholars; and if all could attend the morning school as often as the afternoon I think it would be better. I think I may say this school has not suffered anything from the attendance of half-timers (from the dislike of other children to mix with them).

Order.—We have very little trouble with the half-timers. Kept at work with encouraging words, they are as orderly as the rest. I believe they can especially appreciate kindness, which I attribute to harsher treatment while at work. Looking at the physical effects of the half-time system, no one can question its beneficial effects. There are fewer pale faces than formerly. I claim too, a moral improvement for the half-timers who have remained in the school for any length of time. I had at first to check coarse and bad language, but am happy to say that for some time I have not had any trespasses of this kind.

District 7.—Town. Important. Wesleyan, mixed. Boys 80, girls 12=92. Generally speaking, half-timers of the lower standards are superior to day scholars of the same rank in what may be called the imitative faculty. They copy readily and neatly any example of writing or drawing from the black board; but, for the most part fail in endeavouring to do it from memory. They are also, as a rule, sharper in arithmetic.

Half-timers may be roughly divided into two classes, namely, the children of thrifty and well-to-do working people, and the children of the degraded and careless poor. The former are usually clean and neat when attending school, the latter are rough and untidy. With reference to cleanliness, what the children can do themselves (as clean hands, feet, and combed hair) I have succeeded in obtaining, to some extent; but the state of the clothing, which can only be attended to by the parents, remains the same.

Order.—The children seemed very noisy and talkative at the commencement of the year, which might have been ascribed probably to the novelty of school work, and the

freedom which they have when at the factory. Great improvement in that respect is manifest now, and a case of decided wilful disobedience is very rare.

Attention.—The progress in this matter is satisfactory. The half-time movement in the Potteries commenced so recently that there has not been sufficient time for its moral and spiritual effects to be very great; but there are three points indicating improvement:

1st. The becoming deameanor which is exhibited during devotional exercises.

2nd. Where the boys and girls work together in the factories the consequences are evil in various ways. These had to be counteracted at school. In certain instances at the beginning of the year, some severity had to be used in dealing with them. Now, in this respect, the tone of the school is greatly improved, and is quite equal to what is found in any other day school.

3rd. At first there was no little craft, lying, and selfishness in their dealings one with another. In these respects, too, there is an alteration for good. And whereas, to begin with, I had to deal with some who were premature men and women, now they are beginning to talk and act like boys and girls. I have endeavoured to give a fair judgment, without exaggerating their former or present condition.

Same District.—Bethesda. 36 boys.—At first the half-time children connected with this school came in a very dirty and disorderly state; but now, in cleanliness and order, there is very little to complain of. Swearing and other foul language were very often used; I need scarcely say that both these evils are abandoned. I believe a boy would as soon think of anything as swearing in the school. The most prevalent evil was fighting, which was constantly taking place; it seemed to be bred in them to fight, and when I have talked with them about it they seemed to think it play. I am happy to state that now the half-time boys seem to be in a far better state morally than ever they were; such things as swearing, cursing, and fighting very rarely take place whilst in school. Many of the day scholars left when the half-timers came, but they are almost all returned. On the whole, as to my school, I can say that the half-timers are progressing very nicely, both as to learning, and cleanliness, and order; and that factory boys and day boys work together better than I expected.

Same District.—Roman Catholic. 20 boys.—The progress of the boys is marked and gratifying; and I am convinced that the half-time Act is a godsend to the Potteries,

it being the only opportunity whereby the poor children can gain any education ; for after the labour of the whole day they would be too tired to do good at an evening school. This I can state from experience.

District 8.—Town. Important. School, Wesleyan Connexion. Mixed. Boys 48, girls 18.=66.—As far as I am able to judge, the half-timers contrast most favourably with the day scholars in their power of application. The half-time children coming in contact with those of a higher social grade has produced in many cases a marked improvement in cleanliness and habits of order, and has caused a healthy spirit of emulation. Several children addicted to lying and profane swearing have been checked in the practice of it ; a great deal of roughness of manner has been softened down, and a decided advance made in the general well-being of the children. I consider, if faithfully carried out, the provisions of the Act are fraught with the greatest blessings to the children who are the subject of it.

Same District.—National school. Girls 19.—I find the half-timers, on the whole, cleanly, orderly, and attentive. In only two instances have I found it requisite to speak to them personally on the subject of cleanliness and tidiness : and those cases I attributed to the poverty of the parents. I consider the half-time system will produce a very good effect upon those brought under its influence, especially in a moral point of view.

Same District.—National school. 93 boys.—There has been a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the half-time boys under my care. At first they endeavoured to come without the slightest attention to their appearance : but by simply telling them I could not allow it, a change was very soon effected. Only a few of the very poor among them come in their working clothes.

Order.—It was not long before they became one with the day scholars. They soon learned the system of normal exercises, and took a delight in doing their best. We have a little difficulty at first with individual half-timers. They answer back, or disrespectfully ; but they soon forget their old manners, and become better pleased with the new *regime*.

Their attention to their work, too, is good.

The special Moral Effects of the System.—I augur much for the system in time. We are now beginning to feel the effects, besides seeing them. They are better boys morally. I never hear a bad word now, nor even a slang word. I insist upon them talking as their book tells them ; to use as many words as they can remember, such as they find in their lesson books. I once asked a number of them to write

the Lord's Prayer. They stared at each other in amazement. I said, "Our Father." But they seemed to wonder at being required to say "Our Father." Many boys strive to leave the factory to go to the tileries. There they are not forced to go to school.

District 9.—Town. Very important. National school. Boys 68.

(a.) I have found that, on the average, the advance by half-timers has been rapid, and that they are quite capable of holding their own against day scholars, who have twice the time of instruction.

(b.) The power of application of the half-timers is greater than in those who are altogether at school. I account for this by supposing the school to be an agreeable variation with their work. I think too, that, the half-timers work all the better at their employment from the rest they have during part of the day, from manual labour.

(c.) Cleanliness.—The want of cleanliness is their principal drawback. Their clayey clothes are a great nuisance to those sitting near them. But there is a great difference between boys employed at different Banks. Those from the smaller manufacturers are the most untidy.

Order.—The half-timers are very praiseworthy in order. They are more attentive and quiet in school and give less trouble than day scholars. That the attention to study is good and satisfactory may be gathered from the rapid progress made by the half-timers generally.

District 10.—Country. National school. 7 boys.—Boys generally have a fresher appearance after a few months.

Thus, it is beyond doubt that, between 1864 and 1865, the Pottery children as a class are physically, morally, and intellectually better; less precocious and more childlike; less insubordinate and more tractable; more cleanly in their habits, and therefore more likely to be useful examples to those both around them and at home, possessing there an influence which may perhaps make itself felt, when words would fail. And I trust we may also regard the evidence thus adduced, as showing most distinctly, many valuable improvements of a relative character. The inspiring influence, for example, which a change of occupation has upon the mind; that this change is in fact, rest; that but for this rest, the physical powers of the juvenile workers must be seriously abraded; and that it may as well be accompanied by education, as by unprofitable idleness. If we compare the general condition of these school children with what it was before the Factory Act came into operation among them, a condition which I had to report as undue labour had made it, and

of which now the schoolmasters and mistresses have spoken independently, the difference is an answer to any who may speak of the legal restriction of juvenile labour as an improper interference, and of education in combination with labour as a failure; and who, regardless of the higher interests of humanity, would rather perpetuate the former system, without reference to the virtue which it helps to overthrow, to the homes which it makes desolate, and to the teaching of Christianity which it renders nugatory.

And if we have thus far the benefits of this system, we have afterwards only to inquire into the cost at which this improvement has been attained, and whether it has been such as to deter us in continuing the attempt?

The Factory Act in the Potteries has effected the following improvements:—

It has whitewashed and cleansed upwards of 200 workshops after a period of abstinence from any such cleaning in many cases of 20 years, and in some, entirely, in which were employed 27,878 artisans, hitherto breathing through protracted days and often nights of labour, a mephitic atmosphere, and which rendered an otherwise comparatively innocuous occupation, pregnant with disease and death. It has greatly multiplied the means of ventilation through the various workrooms in which these people are engaged, and has even considerably reduced the temperature of the stoves themselves, with a considerable saving of fuel, and with a readier effect on the ware. It has limited the hours of female, adolescent, and infant labour by a very considerable per-centage over the ordinary and extraordinary hours of labour of preceding times, without diminishing production and with but a small temporary diminution of the rate of wages (for the value of the exports of earthenware for 11 months of 1865, and adding $\frac{1}{2}$ th of the same value for 1864, for the value of the remaining month, shows an increase over the value of the exports on the average of the three years preceding and including 1860, before the American war broke out, of not less than 138,628*l.* sterling). It has safely and usefully placed upwards of 1,600 children, most of them never at a day school before, in some of the best schools in the kingdom, with a moral and intellectual benefit of which we cannot estimate the value; and it is reducing gradually, by the gentlest measures, the insubordination of uncontrolled power to the discipline of obedience. In the homes of the people, too, there are higher perceptions forming; ideas of domestic enjoyments, and of the social relations of life. In the streets, there are no complaints by the householders or the police, of extraordinary disturbances

attributable to the prolongation of the hours devoted to recreation or amusement. No, nor even in the schools in which the children of the upper working classes, or of tradesmen, sit side by side with these young artisans, has there been any permanent antagonism or estrangement between them. On the contrary, the mere contact with the higher form of cultivation which education produces, has begotten an emulation of the highest possible value to both classes of pupils. And one cannot but regard this fact with the utmost satisfaction, since, in our dealings with the working classes, either as artisans only, or as citizens, a healthy emulation is one of the great elements, not only of strength but of peace, between the workman and the master, and between the future generations of both.

The cost therefore of the Factory Act to the pottery population is evidently nothing less than a series of gains. Restricted labour, has neither reduced the production of ware, nor the price at which it is distributed to the consumer. There is doubtless a diminished mortality by a higher sanitary condition, tending to a greater economy of life, and consequently to increased happiness among the people. There is an absolute saving of fuel effected, and a better, because a more perfect system of ventilation. Labour too is more regular, less hurried, and less protracted, by which latter advantage, the opportunities of domestic instruction of every kind are enlarged; whilst children that used to be precocious animals, are becoming obedient, docile, gentle, and impressible with the lessons of divine truth. Can there be any stronger testimony given, than that now afforded, to the efficiency of the Factory Act, which under Providence has been applied to the Potteries; or can there be greater encouragement than these results shew, to induce the legislature to carry the same work into other trades, in districts where it is even still more requisite, and in which equal usefulness under similar legislation may be anticipated.

Since I began to write this Report I have been informed that three or four firms in Birmingham have already commenced to work Factory Act hours, anticipatory of the period, when the law itself will be in force in the trades recommended to be placed under it, by the Commissioners in their third Report. Nobody, indeed, can witness the employment of child and female labour there, the unequal and long hours, the introduction of the little good to the great bad, the precocity of the children of both sexes, the apparent neglect of morality, and the want of education for the juvenile workers, but must admit that, the time has arrived when the great trades which the Children's Employment Com-

missioners have reported upon must be included in factory legislation. The one question of importance is, is the Factory Act adapted to all trades? I have not the least doubt that, with slight modifications it is; and I should have no fear whatever of success in introducing it into any part of my division. Some manufacturers seem to be making ready for it, already; and more of them, to wish it. There might require a temporary modification or two for out-door brickmaking, and for the large ironworks. To the rest, as it is, it could be rendered acceptable. What I wish to impress upon you is that, all factory labour, now-a-days more than ever, demands restriction, elementary education, and supervision, both legal, medical, and moral. The first to compel uniformity of time, whereby the second may raise the intellectual character of the artisans; and the third to protect their life and health, encourage virtue, and rescue the young from contaminating tendencies. Commerce seems to be growing faster than the population; and as the power of wages strengthens, without the controlling influence of a well directed education, we may be certain of what the result will be, if that education is any longer neglected. My belief is that such labour may be as pure and as excellent and as obedient, as domestic labour, and perhaps more so, where the master wills a discipline, and enforces it. I have known many such examples in my long connexion with factory life.

And if such instances were the rule and not the exception, how much better would it be for the manufacturers, how much better for the workpeople, and how infinitely better for society! A little previous inquiry into character, the moral supervision which I have spoken of over juvenile labour, a few more female overlookers among girls and young women, time for rest, recreation, and domestic instruction, and the next generation of factory workers will look upon the past as it has been recorded by the Commissioners, with amazement; and rejoice that such things belonged to history, and not to the times in which they lived. In the language of one who has the press at his command, who directs the views of one of the largest mixed industrial districts of the kingdom, who by all his early and present predilections is more qualified than almost anybody else to speak on this subject, whose father lived and died in the love and esteem of his fellow citizens, and whose voice preceding his own, was listened to in the Senate with the utmost respect, I mean Mr. Edward Baines, permit me to add:—

“Believing, as we do, that the great principle of submitting the labour of children and young persons to legislative restriction, where the circumstances of the case justify and require it, has

been shown, by extensive experience, to be perfectly compatible with the successful prosecution of the largest industrial occupations of the kingdom, whilst it has greatly ameliorated the condition of the employed, and promoted the general contentment of the people, we feel pleasure in being able to call the attention of our readers to the fact, that, a Commission is now sitting for the purpose of inquiring into the employment of children and young persons in trades and manufactures not already regulated by law, with a view to future legislation upon the subject. The Assistant Commissioners have already been engaged for upwards of a year in prosecuting inquiries in various parts of the country, and although those inquiries are not yet completed, we understand that there can be no doubt that in the result Parliament will be asked to interfere with many trades which have not yet been touched by the Factory Acts. We should very strongly deprecate any uncalled-for interference with the employment of children, or the laying of any fetters upon trade which are not absolutely necessary for the protection of the rising generation; but, on the other hand, we are quite of opinion that the principle of the Factory Acts may be advantageously extended to any trades where children are now extensively employed, and where such employment is shown to require regulation. There is an old saying that meat and prayers never hinder work, and we are disposed also to think that attention to the common dictates of humanity never hinders work, and that this has been conclusively shown by the working of the Factory Acts. It must surely be a short-sighted economy which uses up the body and mind of a human being in childhood, and either destroys both, or at all events prevents them from attaining to their full development. If masters and parents cannot appreciate this fact, the community is bound to step in between them and the children whom they would otherwise sacrifice."

With one other subject I will conclude my Report, which has already been lengthened out far too greatly, but only because, on the probable eve of further legislation in this particular direction, I thought it might be useful to give the results of the last year's extension of the Factory Act to trades to which its applicability had been deemed doubtful. The subject is also a national one, one, with which the Factory Act, the factory inspector, and the factory operative, have a great deal to do, and are about to have more. I refer to the necessity, all over the kingdom, of universal Greenwich time. The value of such an arrangement, not only to the working classes, but also for all purposes both public and private, I need scarcely attempt to point out. In England, even in small towns, the difference in clocks is often a source of the utmost annoyance. In large towns in which there are several railway stations, it not only often causes a great loss, but a great inconvenience. In Belfast, the passer-by, sees public clocks showing English time and Irish

time together, the one being 25 minutes behind the other ; and no doubt it is the case also, in other parts of the kingdom.

To the working classes everywhere, this want of universal time cannot fail to interfere, not only with their hours of labour, but with their domestic comfort. By the Factory Act, all works under the law are to be regulated by a public clock to be approved by an inspector. But since railway station clocks have become so common, public clocks, heretofore so called, have been allowed to become extremely irregular ; and there is hardly a passenger who would trust for his time to a church clock, for example, or to anything but railway time, for the best of all reasons, that he might lose his journey and his money, if he did. But it is doubtful in law, whether railway clocks are public clocks, and we have been defeated in an attempt to make them so. A public clock in every town of any size, fitted up by the local authorities, and supplied with regular time by a national telegram, would not only be the focus of time for all the surrounding country, but of all the clocks and watches in the town itself ; and perhaps there could be no national expenditure which would be so productive of national economy.

I see that universal time for London, is under consideration by the Common Council. To consider the same question nationally, might possibly be just as easy. An ingenious mechanician with whom I have spoken on the subject, Mr. Bright, of Leamington, thus writes :—

“ I should have universal time on the principle of the electric bells now in almost universal use on the railways and in the large hotels of France. The required apparatus is exceedingly simple ; it is a well known principle in electric science that a current of electricity passing through a bobbin of wire will, whilst passing, produce electric magnetism in the axis of the bobbin, the direction of which is at right angles to the plane of the wire, and consequently, that a bar of soft iron placed in the axis, will, when contact is made with an electric battery, and a current is thus shot through the wire, powerfully and instantaneously attract a steel bar which may be attached to the hammer of a gong, or, by a simple modification of this principle give rapid strokes upon a bell, which will cease the instant the current is interrupted. As no electricity is lost in this operation, it matters not whether there is only one bobbin or a thousand through which the current passes before returning to the battery, the very same result would be produced at the very same instant, and distance is proved to have little or no influence on these currents, as the Atlantic cable gives signals of undiminished force up to 1,400 miles.”

“ If, therefore, a battery of sufficient number of elements were placed at Greenwich Observatory or other convenient

locality, in connexion with a tested time keeper, a break could easily be attached to the minute and hour wheels of this clock, which every day at a certain hour make complete the electric current commencing at the battery and connected by an insulated wire with each of the alarums required to be sounded in turn; thus each time the contact was made by the clock, the gongs or alarums would sound instantly and simultaneously, and continue to sound as long as might be deemed desirable." Mr Bright thinks that the existing railway wires might be hired for one moment in every day, along which to make this communication. My own idea, is, that these wires might be so used as to enable a descending ball to let loose a trigger, which should strike a bell sufficiently loud to be heard within a reasonable distance, and that in very large towns a sufficient number of bells should be erected to convey the sound. This I know, that the want of such general time is a source of universal complaint, and the adoption of it would not only be a great convenience, but a source of universal profit.

The following sums have, with your approval, been distributed to schools in which factory children are educated:—

	£	s.	d.
To St. Thomas' School, Wigan -	50	0	0
To the Shelton National School -	50	0	0
To the Longton Factory School -	50	0	0
To the Habergham Eaves National School	40	0	0
To the St. Paul's School, Burnley -	30	0	0
To the Longton Factory Girls' School-	25	0	0
To the St. George's National School, Bolton - - -	20	0	0
To the Barnstaple National School -	15	0	0
To the Ainsworth National School -	15	0	0
To the Holy Trinity Church School, Bolton - - -	15	0	0
To the All Saints Church School, Bolton	10	0	0
To the Glynn Church School, Wales -	7	10	0
To the Coniston National School, York- shire - - -	7	0	0
To the Coventry Sewing School -	5	0	0
	£ 339	10	0

The following gentlemen have been appointed by me certifying surgeons:—

ENGLAND.

J. D. Roberts, Esq., Barnoldswick.
 Henry Livy, jun., Esq., Northampton.
 J. W. Pearce, Esq., Peterborough.
 Jas. Smith, Esq., M.D., Ramsbottom.
 Thos. Hill, Esq., Caddishead.
 C. E. Prior, Esq., M.D., Bedford.
 W. H. Colborne, Esq., M.D., Chippenham.
 A. Chitty, Esq., Mere, Wilts.
 W. F. Franks, Esq., Sillesden, Leicester.
 W. N. Marshall, Esq., Wilts.
 E. I. Miles, Esq., Gillingham, Dorset.
 G. G. Bothwell, Esq., Plympton, Devon.
 H. Young, Esq., Hendon, Wilts.
 Tasker Evans, Esq., M.D., Hertford.
 G. M. Stanfield, Esq., Bristol.
 J. M. Masters, Esq., Southsea, Hants.

WALES.

W. James, Esq., Newport, Mon.
 M. H. Hornby, Esq., Abergavenny.
 N. Coutts, Esq., Tirhowey.
 Ed. Hill, Esq., Roath, Cardiff.
 John Russell, Esq., Neath.

IRELAND.

A. H. Stafford, Esq., Newcastle, Clonmel.
 D. C. Purdon, Esq., Belfast.
 R. I. Walsh, Esq., Clare, Ireland.
 Lewis M. Rawson, Esq., M.D., Baltinglass.

I have the honour to remain,
 Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
 ROBERT BAKER.

The Right Hon.
the Secretary of State
for the Home Department.
 &c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURN of PROSECUTIONS for OFFENCES against the FACTORIES, &c. REGULATION ACTS, in the DISTRICT of ROBERT BAKER, ESQ., Inspector of Factories, during the Six Months ended 31st Oct., 1865.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865. Sept. 9.	Edward Cleaton & Co., Llanidloes.	Col. Hunter & Hare, Esq., Town Hall Llanidloes.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Kent.</i> Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	£ s. d. 1 0 0	£ s. d. 0 6 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person after 6 o'clock in the evening.	1 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Neglecting to enter in the register the name and date of the first day of employment of a young person.	2 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Not time washing the factory within 14 months.	3 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	1 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	-	0 6 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	-	0 6 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
June 26.	Isaac Sankey, Atherton, near Leigh.	Atherton, before Alfred Silverster & Jabez John- son, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Jones.</i> Employing six young persons without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	4 17 0	Three cases withdrawn at the urgent request of the magistrates.

List of PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty. £ s. d.	Amount of Costs. £ s. d.	REMARKS.
1865. July 6.	Wm. Hampson and Son, Brightmet, near Bolton.	Bolton, before Robert Heywood and Harrison Blair, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Jones—continued.</i> Employing thirty women and young persons after 6 o'clock p.m.	30 0 0	12 0 0	
" 10	Clegg and Rostron, Edenfield near Bury.	Bury, before Richard Kay and Jonathan Mellor, Esqs.	Employing three children without having obtained the certificate of school attendance.	1 0 0	1 12 6	Two cases withdrawn on payment of expenses.
" "	Wm. Rumney, Shuttleworth, near Bury.	" "	Employing eight young persons without having registered their names.	6 0 0	4 8 6	Five cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 18	Richard Holden, Bradley, near Skipton.	Skipton, before J. R. Pennington, F. Isaac, and T. H. Ingham, Esqs.	Employing twelve young persons after 6 o'clock p.m.	6 0 0	4 0 6	Six cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Sept. 5.	James Ludden (operative), Shuttleworth, near Bury.	Bury, before Wm. Hutchinson, Wm. Openshaw, and John E. Kay, Esqs.	Allowing a child to work between the fired and traversing part of a self-acting machine.	3 0 0	0 14 6	
Oct. 5.	Partington and Bradbury, Farnworth, near Bolton.	Bolton, before Peter Martin and Alfred Barnes, Esqs.	Employing five young persons without surgical certificates.	4 0 0	2 15 0	Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 16	David Crossley, Farnworth, near Bolton.	Bolton, before Rev. J. S. Birley, Peter Alnsworth, and Alfred Barnes, Esqs.	Employing three young persons without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	2 14 0	
" 23	Giles Gee & Sons, Kersley, near Bolton.	Bolton, before John Hick and Joseph Crook, Esqs.	Employing a young person without having registered the name and date of first employment.	2 0 0	2 13 6	
May 18	Joseph Faxon & Co, flax spinners Belfast.	Edward Orme, Esq., R. M. and J. C. O'Donnell, Esq., R. M., Belfast Petty Sessions.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Derkin.</i> Employing six females and young persons after 6 o'clock in the evening.	6 0 0	0 15 0	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1863. May 18	Jno. Gilmore, gatekeeper at Joseph Farn & Co's, Belfast.	Edward Orme, Esq., R. M., and J. C. O'Lonnell, Esq., R. M., Belfast Petty Sessions.	Obstructing the Sub-Inspector in the execution of his duty.	£ s. d. - - 6	£ s. d. 0 3 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs, in consideration of the Defendant's ignorance of the Sub-Inspector, and of his being a poor man, with a large family. Dismissed.
" 20	William John Hutchinson, manager at Messrs. Carr's, flax spinners, Tulligirven, Co. Down.	Rev. Joseph Bradshaw, R. A. O'Donel, Esq., R. M., and Alexander McMinn, Esq., Newtownards Petty Sessions.	Obstructing the Sub-Inspector in the discharge of his duty.	- - -	- - -	
" 30	John and Joseph Carr, flax spinners, Tulligirven, Co. Down.	Rev. Joseph Bradshaw, R. A. O'Donel, R. M., James Brownlow, and J. Blakiston Houston, Esqs., Newtownards Petty Sessions.	Employing fifteen females and young persons after 2 o'clock on Saturday.	- - -	- - -	The Magistrates at first convicted in eight cases (with 12s. penalties 4s. costs), and then consented to the transfer of the offence to the Manager, subject to the opinion of the Law Officers, but before that opinion was taken Mr. John Carr died, upon which the case was reopened, and the Magistrates finally dismissed the whole of the proceedings, on the ground that his representatives were not responsible for his penal liabilities.
	William John Hutchinson, the manager at the Messrs. Carr's mill, to whom the offence was transferred.	" "	Employing fifteen females and young persons after 2 o'clock on Saturday.	- - -	- - -	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.						
Sept. 16.	Thomas Higbam, Mule Spinner at Mr. Ephraim Hallam's Cotton Factory, Stockport.	John Eskridge, Esq., Rev. C. K. Prescott, Stockport Petty Sessions.	<i>Information laid by Mr. Sleem.</i> Allowing a young person to work between the fixed and traversing parts of a self-acting "Mule" while in motion.	£ s. d. - - 0 10 6	£ s. d. - - 0 10 6	Dismissed.
June 5	Samuel Turner, Upper Brunswick Street, Leicester.	Alfred Burgess, Mayor, Samuel Viccars, Isaac Harrison, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Haydon.</i> Employing 6 females above 18 after 6 at night	13 0 0	2 14 0	Fined 2l. and costs in each case.
"	William Henry Walker, William Kempen, Junior Street, Leicester.	" "	Not keeping a register in a building attached to, and part of the factory.	- - -	0 8 0	These cases were withdrawn on payment of costs, upon the understanding that the new building was immediately put under the Factory Act.
"	" "	" "	Employing a young person in the same without surgical certificate.	- - -	0 8 0	
"	" "	" "	Employing child in the same without school-master's certificate.	- - -	0 8 0	
"	Ephraim France, Railway Buildings, Leicester.	" "	Employing a female under 18 without registering.	2 0 0	0 9 0	
"	" "	" "	Employing a female under 18 without registering	- - -	0 9 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	Remarks.
1886.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
June 5	Thomas Sibson Mitchell, William Cooper; James Cooper, Leicester.	Alfred Burgess, Mayor. Samuel Viccars; Isaac Harrison, Esqs.	Neglecting to send notice of occupation to Factory Inspector.	-	0 9 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs, upon satisfactory proof being given that steam power had only been applied within one month of occupation.
"				-	-	
"				-	-	
"	Thomas Ross, Leicester	"	Neglecting to send notice of occupation to Factory Inspector.	2 0 0	0 9 0	
"	Thomas Smart, Leicester	"	Neglecting to send notice of occupation to Factory Inspector.	2 0 0	0 9 0	
July 28	James Horrocks, Macclesfield.	James Jackson, Jeremiah Clarke, Esqs.	Employing boy under 16 in silk mill without surgical certificate.	2 0 0	10 0 0	
Aug. 1	John Briar, Bollington	William Coare Brocklehurst, Thomas Wardle, Esqs.	Employing child in printworks without school-master's certificate.	1 0 0	0 7 6	
"	"	"	Employing child in printworks without school-master's certificate.	-	0 3 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs and on satisfactory explanation being given in court.
"	"	"	Employing a young person in the same without surgical certificate.	-	0 3 6	
"	"	"	Employing boy under 13 in the same without registering.	-	0 3 6	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1895. Aug. 1	John Barber, Rainow	William Courie Brocklehurst, Thomas Wardle, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Haydon—continued.</i> Employing girl under 16 in silk mill without surgical certificate.	2 0 0	2 s. d. 0 7 6	
"	John Maybury, Rainow	"	Employing child under 13 in silk mill without registering.	2 0 0	0 7 6	
Oct. 30.	Jonathan Wootton (Parent), Comb Street, Chard.	William Tucker, Toms, Esq., Mayor, William Salter, Esq., Town Hall, Chard.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Butler.</i> Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	0 4 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	George Harbour (Parent), Holyrood Street, Chard.	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	0 4 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	John Herring (Parent), Holyrood Street, Chard.	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	0 4 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	James Collins (Parent), Holyrood Street, Chard.	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	0 8 6	Withdrawn.
"	Joseph Caswell (Workman), Chard.	"	Employing a child before noon and after noon of the same day.	-	0 5 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs, on account of poverty of Defendant.
May 30	Allman, Broughton, & Co., Burslem.	James E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Burslem.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. May.</i> Employing two children without school certificates	2 0 0	1 8 0	
July 19	Copestake, Shuffeletham, and Allen, Longton.	James E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Longton.	Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	2 0 0	0 12 6	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1885. July 19	Copestake Bros., Longton	James E. Davies, Esq. Stipendiary, Longton.	Employing two children without school certificates	£ s. d. 2 0 0	£ s. d. 1 5 0	Three informations with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	Thomas Birks, Longton.	"	Employing five young persons without registering their names.	2 0 0	2 1 6	
"	"	"	Employing a child without a school certificate.	1 0 0	0 12 6	
"	"	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 12 6	
"	Lowe and Abberley, Longton.	"	Employing three young persons and one child without registering their names.	2 0 0	1 6 0	Three informations with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing four young persons and one child without surgical certificates.	4 0 0	2 0 0	Three informations with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing two children without school certificates	-	0 11 0	Informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing two children before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	-	0 11 0	Informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	T. and E. Hobson, Longton.	"	Employing a young person and a child without surgical certificates.	2 0 0	0 12 0	One information with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing two children without school certificates	1 0 0	0 12 0	One information with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 12 6	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS.—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.			<i>Informations laid by Mr. May—continued.</i>			
July 19	Richard Amison, workman, Longton.	James E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Longton.	Employing one young person without registering his name.	2 0 0.	£ s. d. 0 12 0	
"	William Lockett, workman, Longton.	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 12 0	
"	Eliza Tooth, workwoman, Longton.	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 12 0	
"	Hannah Evans, workwoman, Longton.	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 12 0	
"	Joseph Butler, parent, Longton.	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school	0 5 0	0 12 0	
"	Esther Sims, parent, Longton.	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school	0 5 0	1 10 6	
"	Henry Hallam					{Cases adjourned for a month and informations then withdrawn the children having regularly attended school during the interval.
"	William Holdsworth					
"	Thomas Coleclough					
"	Edward Hirst					
"	John Warrilow					
"	William Bowman					
Sept. 8	E. B. Hamel, Tamworth.	Thomas Bramall and Charles Garnett, Esqs., Tamworth.	Employing three young persons and two children without registering their names.	2 0 0	-	{Four informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three young persons and one child without surgical certificates.	2 0 0	-	{Three informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
					5 8 0	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS.—continued.

" Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1895.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Sept. 8	E. B. Hamel, Tamworth.	" "	Employing two children before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	-	One information withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing one child without school certificate	1 0 0	-	
" 28	George Frederick Bowers, Tunstall.	James E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Tunstall.	Employing three young persons and one child after 6 p.m.	1 0 0	-	One information was dismissed on the evidence and two on a point of law. In the two last, cases have been granted for the session of the Queen's Bench.
Oct. 4	Murshall and Tennant, Longton.	James E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Longton.	Neglecting to keep a factory cleanly	-	-	These cases were adjourned till 25th October when the necessary steps having been taken by the Defendants, the informations were withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Neglecting to ventilate a factory	-	-	
Oct. 26	Joseph Gould and Son, Leek.	Rev. John Sneyd and C. T. S. Kynnersley, Esq., Leek.	Employing four females on several days after 6 p.m. (twenty-three informations).	9 0 0	7 15 6	The maximum penalty was imposed in three cases, and the remainder were withdrawn, on payment of costs, in consequence of informality in the informations.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865. Oct. 26	Joseph Gould and Son, Leek.	Rev. John Sneyd and C. T. & Kynncraley, Esq. Leek.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. May—continued.</i> Employing four females during the night on several days (eleven informations).	£ s. d. 8 0 0	£ s. d. 4 2 0	Seven informations withdrawn as above.
"	"	"	Employing four females after two p.m. on Saturday	3 0 0	1 7 6	Three informations withdrawn as above.
"	Thomas Carr & Co., Leek.	"	Employing six young persons and children after 6 p.m.	6 0 0	3 9 0	
"	"	"	Employing three young persons without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	1 5 6	
"	"	"	Employing four young persons without registering their names.	-	1 4 0	Informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Joseph Broster, Leek	"	Employing eight young persons and children without registering their names.	10 0 0	4 1 6	Three informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three young persons without surgical certificates.	-	0 18 0	Three informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	William Gallimore & Co., Leek.	"	Employing five young persons and children without registering their names.	8 0 0	2 14 0	One information withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three young persons without surgical certificates.	-	0 18 0	Three informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Alfred Trafford, Leek	"	Employing four females after 6 p.m.	1 0 0	1 13 6	Three informations withdrawn on payment of costs, in consideration of poverty of defendant.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1885. Aug. 3.	Robert M'Loughlin, 20, Poole Street, Dublin.	George Wyse, Metropolitan Police Court, Dublin.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Girardot.</i> Employing four females in his pipe manufactory after 6 o'clock p.m. on the 26th July.	£ s. d. 1 0 0	£ s. d. 0 8 0	Defendant did not dispute the facts which were proved by the females employed. He urged, in extenuation, that the Act had only recently come into force, and that he understood some indulgence was to be allowed for a few months.
June 8.	The Nunceaton Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company Limited.	A. C. Prettyman, Esq., and J. N. F. Astley, Esq., at Newdegate Arms, Nunceaton.	<i>Information laid by Mr. Fittion.</i> Obstructing the Sub-Inspector by concealing young persons.	10 0 0	1 2 6	The offence having been admitted and a fine inflicted in one case, the charges for nine other similar offences committed on the same date, May 25th, were withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	" "	" "	Employing a child without obtaining school certificate for previous week.	1 0 0	1 4 0	
"	" "	" "	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Fittion in Mr. Kent's District.</i> Employing a child without obtaining school certificate for previous week.	1 0 0	0 9 6	
"	Samuel Evans and Frederick Evans.	William Intener and Septimus Scott, Esqs., at Newtown Petty Sessions.	Employing same child for more than seven days without obtaining a surgical certificate.	"	0 9 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.						
June 7	Samuel Evans and Frederick Evans.	William Intener and Septimus Scott, Esqs. at Newtown Petty Sessions.	Employing same child without registering his name and the date of his first employment.	£ s. d. - - 0 11 6	£ s. d. - - 0 11 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	" "	" "	Allowing same child to be employed at an unfenced shaft while the shaft was in motion, whereby the child suffered bodily damage.	- - -	0 8 0	Dismissed as the Magistrates were of opinion that the information should have been laid against the workman by whom the child was set to work on the shaft, and not against the owners of the factory, who were not aware that the child was so dangerously employed.
"	William Kinsey, parent of the same child.	" "	For not sending his child to school.	- - -	- - -	The case was withdrawn, and the costs remitted by the magistrate's clerk in consideration of the man's poverty and the anxiety he had incurred through the accident to his son.
Sept. 1	C. J. Worthington, Asylum Street, Leicester.	Alfred Burgess and William Biggs, Esqs. at the Town Hall, Leicester.	Employing two females after 6 p.m.	4 0 0	1 4 0	Informations were laid in these cases by Mr. Fitton in the absence of Mr. Haydon from Leicester.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1885. Oct. 5	David Birmingham, lucifer maker.	Erdington Petty Sessions, before S. Rawlins and J. Jaffray, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Putton in Mr. Kent's District—continued.</i> Employing ten young women after 6 p.m. on September 23d.	£ s. d. - - 0	£ s. d. 2 15 0	This being the first information laid before the magistrates for a breach of the Factory Act Extension Act, 1864, the magistrates considered, after hearing the statements made by the defendant in extenuation of his offence, that a fine was not necessary. A conviction was therefore recorded, and the fine remitted on payment of costs.
May 3	John Henry Webb and Son, Trowbridge.	H. G. G. Ludlow, Esq. and William Stancomb, Esq., Court House, Trowbridge.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Earnshaw.</i> For neglect of whitewashing the Bridge Mills as prescribed by s. 18, c. 16. v. 7.	10 0 0	0 7 6	The maximum penalty was inflicted. The neglect had been extending over a period of several years.
" 11	John Williams, Lamb Street, Bristol, tobacco pipe manufacturer.	L. B. Clutterbuck, Clerk, Brooke Smith, Esq.	Employing two women in the night time, laid under 27 & 28 Vict.	2 0 0	1 1 0	Withdrawn one case on payment of costs, and consented to the minimum penalty in the other.
" 31	John Edward Davies, Bradford, Wiltshire.	Thos. B. Saunders, Chas. J. T. Conolly.	Employing Ellen Hibberd, a young person for whom a surgical certificate was required, without having registered the date of her employment.	1 0 0	0 11 0	
June 1	Francis Melsom, Temple Street, Bristol.	Rev. Chas. R. Davey, Geo. Care, Wm. Belfield, and Dr. Goodere.	1. Not having registered the name and date of employment of John Marchant, a young person.	3 0 0	0 12 8	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865. June 1	Francis Melsom, Temple Street, Bristol.	Rev. Chas. R. Davey, Geo. Care, Wm. Belfield, and Dr. Goodere.	2. Not having had the same certified.	£ s. d. - - 6	£ s. d. 0 4 6	Fines in these two cases not imposed by request of the magistrates.
"	"	"	3. Not having registered the name and date of employment of Alfred Mains, a young person.	- - -	0 4 6	
"	"	"	4. Not having had the same duly certified.	3 0 0	0 12 8	
July 27	Messrs. Cook & Thatcher, Bristol, rope manufacturers.	Brooke Smith, George Care, and O. H. Harford, Esqs.	Neglecting and refusing to hang up at the entrance of their rope works the abstract of the Factory Act with other notices as required by 7 & 8 Vict. c. 15, s. 28.	2 10 0	1 16 0	Proceedings expressly approved by the justices. Defence was that they had been working for 20 years in disregard of the Factory Act and that they were exempt by the 9 & 10 Vict. The bench denied the claim to exemption.
Aug. 2	Jesse Bigg, foreman to Messrs. Clark and Wm. Chapman, operative of same firm, Frowbridge.	J. P. Stancomb, Esq. and Rev. T. H. Tait.	Employing a young person without his name and date of employment being registered.	1 0 0	0 4 9	Had been cautioned about these very offences in respect to same boy 3 months before.
"	"	"	Employing a young person without surgical certificate.	1 0 0	0 4 9	
"	"	"	For allowing the illegal employment of the same young person, being his son.	- - -	0 4 0	
" 3	Messrs. Cook & Thatcher, Bristol, rope manufacturers.	Rev. I. B. Clutterbuck, Clerk, and C. B. Davy, Clerk, H. A. Palmer, W. Belfield, Esqs.	1. Employing a young person without surgical certificate.	1 0 0	0 12 6	Penalty not pressed for on account of poverty.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.						
Aug. 3.	Messrs Cook & Thatcher, Bristol, rope manufacturers.	Rev. L. B. Clutterbuck, Clerk, and C. B. Davy, Clerk, H. A. Palmer, W. Belfield, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Earnshaw</i> —continued. 2. Employing another young person without sur- gical certificate.	£ s. d. 1 0 0	£ s. d. 0 8 0	
"	"	"	3. Employing another young person without sur- gical certificate.	1 0 0	0 8 0	
"	"	"	4. Employing a young person without having re- gistered name and date of employment.	1 0 0	0 8 0	
"	"	"	5. Employing another young person without having registered name and date of employment.	1 0 0	0 8 0	
"	"	"	6. Employing another young person without having registered name and date of employment.	1 0 0	0 8 0	
"	"	"	7. Refusing to keep register of young person.	2 0 0	0 8 0	
"	"	"	8. Refusing to limewash factory.	3 0 0	0 8 0	
"	"	"	9. Refusing to fence machinery.	5 0 0	0 8 0	
Sept. 30.	David Lewis Machen, Monmouthshire, flannel manufacturer.	Rev. Thos. Pope, Clerk, Wm. Phillips, Esq., R.N.	1. Employing a child before noon and after 1 o'clock same day.	1 0 0	0 8 6	
"	"	"	2. Employing a child without certificate from a schoolmaster.	1 0 0	0 9 0	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty. £ s. d.	Amount of Costs. £ s. d.	REMARKS.
1865.	"	"	3. Employing a child without previously registering the date of her employment.	- -	-	Dismissed for want of sufficient proof.
"	"	"	4. Neglecting to provide and hang up abstract of the Factory Act.	2 0 0	0 7 6	
"	"	"	5. Neglecting to fence water wheel and wheel race.	- -	0 7 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs, and plea of guilty.
Oct. 6.	Wm. Jas. Williams Newport, Monmouthshire.	E. F. Woollett and W. W. Morgan, Esqs.	1. Neglect of lime washing.	3 0 0	1 2 0	
July 3.	John Gregson & R. Walsh, Spa Mill, Padham.	Thomas Horden Whittaker and John Heelis, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Bailey.</i> For employing two young persons under 18 without entering their names in the register.	4 0 0	1 8 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	For employing two young persons under 16 years of age without surgical certificates.	- -	-	Withdrawn previous to trial on payment of costs.
" 31.	Sutcliffe, C. & J., Hollingreave Mill, Burnley.	"	For neglecting to enter the date of lime washing in the register.	- -	-	
"	James Whittaker, Scar Top, Burnley.	"	For employing two young persons under 18 without registering their names in the register.	4 0 0	2 3 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	For employing two young persons under 16 years of age without surgical certificates.	- -	-	
"	William Bear, Perseverance Mill, Padham.	"	For employing two young persons under 16 years of age without surgical certificates.	4 0 0	2 3 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	For employing two young persons under 18 without entering their names in the register.	- -	-	

List of Prosecutions—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.			<i>Informations laid by Mr. Bailey—cont.</i>			
"	Thomas Hull, Perseverance Mill, Padliham.	"	For employing a young person under 16 years of age without registration or surgical certificate.	£ s. d. 4 0 0	£ s. d. 1 15 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	For employing a young person under 18 without registering her name.	-		
"	John Whitaker, Spa Mill, Padliham.	"	For allowing a child under 13 years of age to work between the fixed and traversing parts of a self-acting mule while in motion.	1 0 0	0 14 6	
Aug. 7.	Bannister's and Company, Ashfield Mill, Burnley.	Thomas Horden Whitaker and John Heelis, Esqs.	For employing a child under 13 years of age without registering her name.	2 0 0	0 15 6	
"	"	"	For employing a child under 13 years of age without producing school certificate.	1 0 0	0 13 6	
"	"	"	For employing a child under 13 years of age without surgical certificate.	-	-	Dismissed.
"	"	"	For employing a young person under 18 without registering her name.	2 0 0	0 13 6	
"	"	"	For employing a young person under 16 without surgical certificate.	2 0 0	0 14 6	
"	"	"	For employing a young person under 16 without surgical certificate.	2 0 0	0 13 6	
"	"	"	For employing a young person under 18 without registration.	-	-	Withdrawn.

APPENDIX No. 2.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	5	1	-	-	2	-	7	1	8
Amputation of right hand or arm	2	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	4
Amputation of left hand or arm	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Amputation of part of right hand	4	9	15	25	1	3	20	37	57
Amputation of part of left hand	9	7	11	12	3	1	23	20	43
Amputation of any part of leg } or foot - - - }	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	9	7	13	4	4	-	26	11	37
Fracture of hand or foot - -	6	6	8	13	1	1	15	20	25
Injuries to head and face -	2	10	6	3	4	2	12	15	27
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - }	69	61	127	92	12	8	208	161	369
Total - - -	106	104	182	149	28	15	316	268	584

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2
Amputation of part of right hand	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	4	4
Amputation of part of left hand	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	4	1	2	2	1	-	7	3	10
Injuries to head and face -	5	3	2	1	1	-	8	4	12
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - }	10	4	6	7	2	-	18	11	29
Total - - -	20	9	11	13	4	1	35	23	58

LONDON :

**Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.**

REPORTS

OF THE

INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Home Department,

FOR THE
HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 1866.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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1866.

REPORTS

TO THE RIGHT HON. SPENCER HORATIO WALPOLE.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

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HALF-YEARLY JOINT REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.

SIR, *Factory Inspectors' Office,*
10, Whitehall, June 19th, 1866.

WE have the satisfaction to report most favourably of the continued and ready observance of the Factory Regulations in the various kinds of works now under our inspection.

We cannot express to you too strongly our sense of the vast benefit recently conferred upon the operatives by the Factory Acts Extension Act of 1864, and our earnest hope that other employments, of which the evils and hindrances to moral and social progress have been so ably reported by the Children's Employment Commissioners, may, as soon as possible, be brought under the influence of Factory Regulations.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servants,

ALEX^r REDGRAVE.
ROBERT BAKER.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State
for the Home Department,
 &c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX No. 1.

GENERAL ABSTRACT, showing the Total Number of Accidents reported to the Inspectors of Factories during the Six Months ended the 30th April 1866.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	10	2	8	2	6	-	24	4	28
Amputation of right hand or arm	3	2	8	1	-	-	11	3	14
Amputation of left hand or arm	4	3	4	-	-	-	8	3	11
Amputation of part of right hand	30	5	54	70	17	13	101	140	241
Amputation of part of left hand	27	25	38	44	14	6	79	75	144
Amputation of any part of leg or foot	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	4
Fracture of limbs and bones of trunk	33	16	30	9	14	2	77	27	104
Fracture of hand or foot	30	35	43	48	24	8	97	91	188
Injuries to head and face	20	36	27	19	15	1	62	56	118
Lacerations, contusions, and other injuries not enumerated above	322	287	352	367	120	66	794	720	1514
Total	479	463	568	560	210	96	1257	1119	2376

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	4	1	1	-	-	-	5	1	6
Fracture of limbs and bones of trunk	25	5	23	4	6	-	54	9	63
Fracture of hand or foot	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	3
Injuries to head and face	10	2	11	1	3	-	24	3	27
Lacerations, contusions, and other injuries not enumerated above	61	14	20	14	10	7	91	35	126
Total	100	23	56	19	20	7	176	49	225

APPENDIX No. 2.

SUMMARY of the Total Number of Informations and Convictions, and the Amount of Penalties and Costs, in the Districts of the Inspectors of Factories, during the Six Months ended the 30th of April 1866.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE.	Number of Informations.	Result.			Penalties imposed.						
		Convictions.	Withdrawn on Payment of Costs.	Dismissed.	5s.	10s.	20s.	40s.	£3.	£5.	£7 10s.
Neglecting to fence mill gearing - - - -	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing children and young persons to work between the fixed and traversing parts of a self-acting machine whilst in motion - - - -	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employing children and young persons without registering their names and date of first employment - - - -	29	12	17	—	—	—	3	9	—	—	—
Employing children and young persons without surgical certificates - -	38	21	17	—	—	—	7	14	—	—	—
Employing children before noon and after one o'clock p.m. of the same day -	21	15	5	1	—	—	13	1	1	—	—
Employing children without school vouchers - -	27	14	13	—	—	—	13	1	—	—	—
Employing children, young persons, and women before six o'clock a.m. -	4	4	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
Employing children, young persons, and women after six o'clock p.m. - -	62	55	7	—	—	—	38	11	6	—	—
Employing children, young persons, and women after seven o'clock p.m. - -	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Employing young persons and women during meal hours - - - -	11	11	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—
Employing children, young persons, and women on Good Friday, sacramental fast day or holiday -	25	19	6	—	—	—	15	4	—	—	—
Parents employing or conniving at the illegal employment of their children - - - -	9	7	2	—	4	1	2	—	—	—	—
Parents neglecting to cause their children to attend school - - - -	26	18	8	—	16	1	1	—	—	—	—
Not keeping a register - -	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not limewashing, as required by law - - -	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carried forward -	261	177	82	2	20	2	104	43	8	—	—

Appendix No. 2—continued.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE.	Number of Informations.	Result.			Penalties imposed.						
		Convictions.	Withdrawn on Payment of Costs.	Dismissed.	5s.	10s.	20s.	40s.	£3.	£5.	£7 10s.
Brought forward -	261	177	83	2	20	2	104	43	8	—	—
Not producing registers, certificates, &c. -	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Not hanging up abstract of Acts, notices of hours of work, meal times, &c. -	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Issuing and making use of false certificates of age -	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Making false entries in the register of young persons	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wilful obstruction of the sub-inspector in the execution of his office -	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total -	267	181	83	3	20	2	105	44	8	1	1

The Total amount of Fines inflicted, £235 10s.

The Total amount of Costs, £136 11s. 0½d.

REPORT of ALEXANDER REDGRAVE, Esq., Inspector of
Factories, for the Half Year ended the 30th April 1866.

SIR, *Factory Inspectors' Office, 10, Whitehall.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that I have visited various establishments under inspection, and schools, during the half year, in Manchester, Salford, Pendleton, Patricroft, Eccles, Harpurhey, Crumpsall, Failsworth, Newton Heath, Bury, Huddersfield, Meltham, Halifax, Elland, Greetland, Soyland, Ripponden, Todmorden, Nottingham.

The prosecution list contains less than the average number of cases, notwithstanding the very considerably increased activity of trade throughout the district.

There have been only two cases of prosecutions under the Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864; the one of a fustian cutter who employed females after the legal hours; the other was that of a manufacturer who declared he would not, unless compelled, observe the regulations, which were explained to him over and over again. His premises are at a distance from any others under inspection, and the utmost pains and forbearance were used by Mr. Whymper to induce him to do as others were doing; but he could not be persuaded, and he was therefore prosecuted. This is the solitary instance in my District of a manufacturer refusing to acknowledge the application of the Act to his premises in a spirit of direct antagonism and as about 1,400 works were brought under inspection in my District alone by the Factory Acts Extension Act, 1864, I think nothing can show more clearly the spirit with which Factory regulations are received and acted upon in a great variety of trades. It is thus hardly necessary to reiterate at any length that which was dwelt upon in my last Report, viz., the great success of the last series of Factory Legislation. I constantly receive from the employers and from the operatives warm expressions of thankfulness that their trades are under inspection, with evidence of the boons which have been derived; and in fact almost the only objection is that the Act of 1864 does not extend to the trades, whether carried on in what is technically called a factory or in other places, notably to a trade when carried on in a house by a father and his family, to which I referred in my last Report. This great success renders delay in progressive legislation much to be regretted; for not only does it prove that the prejudices against legislative interference are soon modified, but that the Factory

Regulations, tempered wherever they may be found to be injurious to the interest of either the employers or the operatives, are singularly well adapted for application to the circumstances of a variety of trades. Uniformity of the hours of work, by limiting the duration of labour between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., is the great feature of the Factory Acts; and every day's experience shows that this regulation requiring work (so far as concerns children, young persons and females) to cease at 6 p.m., is that which is really sought by the operatives. The permission in the Bleachworks Act, that work may, under the plea of recovering lost time, be extended from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., does not give satisfaction to the operatives; and I am certain, when trade shall be in a condition to warrant the recovery of lost time, that the dissatisfaction on all sides will be loud. The only guarantee that time is being legally recovered is in the character of the manufacturer. In many establishments it will be impossible for the Inspectors to satisfy themselves that time alleged to have been lost has been lost, and that time being recovered is legally recovered. In fact the only satisfactory solution consists in the adoption, as in the Act of 1864, of the Factory working day.

The continued delay in dealing with the Trades, already reported upon by the Children's Employment Commissioners, is the cause of many anomalies and annoyances of which frequent complaint is made to me; as, for instance, in a restricted trade the Factory is closed at 6 o'clock in the evening precisely, and the labour of children, young persons, and females then ceases; while a neighbouring Factory, in which evils of a serious nature exist, is kept at work until 8 or 9 o'clock. Thus there are glass-works and machine shops in the neighbourhood of potteries and factories now under inspection. In the latter places, children, if possessed of sufficient health and age, are permitted to work only for a limited number of hours; while in the first-named class of works, in which labour is surrounded by fully as many elements of mischief as in the Potteries before they were placed under inspection, children of any age may be employed for any number of hours. This state of things is as annoying to the manufacturers now under restrictions as it is unjust to the operatives in the trades not yet legislated for. The manufacturers have great difficulty in procuring a supply of the younger class of hands, for they are attracted to the places wherein long hours are worked, and consequently where better wages are paid; and the operatives who work at unrestricted labour may be assured that whatever temporary loss in wages may be suffered will be more than

compensated for in the advantages which will be enjoyed when working under Factory Regulations.

The fines imposed during the half year have been distributed as follows to day schools attended by half-timers employed in Factories :

	£
National School, Marsden near Huddersfield	- 10
" Cumberworth near "	- 5
" Illingworth near Halifax	- 10
" New Leeds near Bradford	- 10
" Windhill near Bradford	- 10
" Ingrow near Keighley	- 10
" Huddlesden near Blackburn	- 10
" Daiseyfield near "	- 10
" New Lane near "	- 5
" Cabin End near "	- 5
" Knattbank near Heywood	- 10
" Goodshaw near Rawtenstall	- 10
" Ockbrook, near Derby	- 10
" Todmorden	- 10
" Clayton-le-Moors	- 10
Church School, Mellor near Stockport	- 5
Wesleyan School, Greetland near Halifax	- 10
British School, Halifax	- 10
	<hr/>
	£160
	<hr/>

I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the continued zeal and industry of the Sub-Inspectors of Factories in my District, who, with the exception of such time as some of them have been absent for their usual vacation, have been actively engaged during the whole of the half year.

I have, &c.

ALEXR. REDGRAVE.

The Right Hon.

The Secretary of State
for the Home Department.

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE FACTORIES, &c. ACTS, in the DISTRICT OF ALEXANDER REDGRAVE, Esq., during the Six Months ended 30th April 1866.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866. Mar. 3	William Ritchie and Son, flax and jute spinners, Stratford, Essex.	John Gurney Fry and Samuel Howard, Esqs., Ilford Petty Sessions.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Trimmer.</i> Having employed ten young persons and females after 6 o'clock in the evening.	£ s. d. 10 0 0	£ s. d. 4 10 0	
"	"	"	Having employed two young persons without having entered their names in the register.	2 0 0		
1866. Nov. 23	Drumond and Henderson, Kailers Brae, near Alloa.	William Bennett, Clerk, and James Moir, Esqs., Alloa.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Walker.</i> Employing five young persons after 6 p.m. -	5 0 0	0 10 0	
1866. Jan. 5	John Jackson & Co., makers up and packers, George Street, Manchester.	Robinson Fowler, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, and Mathew Kennedy, Esq., Police Court, Manchester.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Colea.</i> Employing three children and two young persons without surgical certificates.	10 0 0	-	5 per cent. deducted from the penalties for court dues.
"	"	"	Employing three children and two young persons without having registered their names, &c.	-	5 4 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three children without school certificates.	-	-	Withdrawn on payment of costs.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866.						
Jan. 13	C. Durbury & Co., cotton manufacturers, Foundry Street, Bury, Lancashire.	Lieut.-Col. Hutchinson & Captain C. O. Walker, Police Court, Bury.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Cole</i> —continued. Employing fifteen females after the hour of 6 o'clock in the evening.	£ s. d. 25 0 0	£ s. d. 8 12 6	
" 24	William Yates, fusian cutter Bloom Street, Salford.	H. L. Trafford, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, Town Hall, Salford.	Employing a woman after the hour of 7 o'clock in the evening.	3 0 0	0 8 6	
"	"	"	Employing a young person after the hour of 7 o'clock in the evening.	-	-	Dismissed owing to contradictory evidence.
"	"	"	Employing a woman (defendant's wife) after the hour of 7 o'clock in the evening.	-	0 17 6	Dismissed on the ground that a man could not be said to employ his own wife within the meaning of the Factory Acts.
Feb. 22	William Chapman, parent, Swinton, near Manchester.	H. L. Trafford, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, New Bailey, Salford.	Giving a false certificate of his daughter's age to enable her to work full time in a factory.	-	0 13 6	Dismissed.
" 1	Wm. Thornton & Son, Idle.	Chas. Hardy, Joshua Pollard, and Wm. Pollard, Esqs., Bradford Court House.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Richards.</i> Employing two young persons during dinner hour	4 0 0	1 8 6	

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS
1886.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Mar. 5	Messrs. Ryder & Sons	Rev. R. Brooke, Clerk, B. Hemsworth, Esq., and George Whitehead, Esq.	Employing two young persons without being registered.	4 0 0	1 3 0	
"	"	"	Employing two young persons without suffical certificates.	4 0 0	1 1 0	
"	"	"	Employing nine females during the break/fast hour	9 0 0	5 1 0	
" 23	Blasin Elpion, overlooker at Hull Cotton Mill.	J. H. Travis, Esq., S. P. M., Town Hall, Hull.	Employing a child more than six and a half hours in one day.	2 0 0	0 10 0	
" 24	J. M. Midgley, News-holme, near Kelghley.	John Briggs, Wm. Marri-ner, and John Craven, Esq., Court House, Kelghley.	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. of the same day.	1 0 0	1 0 0	
"	"	"	Employing same without school certificate - <i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Whymer.</i>	-	-	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 22	Edward Burniston, of Briggs, pipemaker.	Thos. Geo. Corbett, Esq., and the Rev. Thos. Booth Wright, Clerk, Justices acting for the Bridge Petty Sessions Division.	Employing a young person named James Darnill, of the age of 14, without registering his name, &c.	1 0 0	0 8 2	
"	"	"	Neglecting to hang up in his factory an abstract of the Acts of Parliament, &c., relative to fac-tories.	1 0 0	0 8 2	

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Mar. 22	Edward Burniston, of Brigg, pipemaker.	Thos. Geo. Corbett, Esq., and the Rev. Thos. Booth Wright, Clerk, Justices acting for the Brigg Petty Sessional Division.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Whymper</i> —cont. Employing the above-named James Darnill without obtaining from duly appointed certifying surgeon a certificate of age, strength, &c.	1 0 0	0 8 2	
1866.			<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Henderson.</i>			
Nov. 22	Messrs. Hindle, Gas-kell, & Hargreaves, printers, Waterbarn, Bacup.	John Howarth and John Dawson, Esqs., Petty Sessions, Bacup.	Employing five children without having obtained for them certificates of school attendance.	5 0 0	3 2 6	
1866.				0 5 0	0 16 0	
Jan. 24	William Bull, labourer, Shawforth, Bacup.	George Hargreaves and John Dawson, Esqs., Petty Sessions, Bacup.	Neglecting to send his child to school			
Mar. 7	Messrs. Horrocks, Ogden, & Co., manufacturers, Heywood.	Charles Cheetham and Richard Kay, Esqs., Petty Sessions, Heywood.	Employing a child forenoon and afternoon of same day.	1 0 0	1 8 6	
"	Messrs. Swindlehurst & Co., manufacturers, Heywood.	" "	Employing a child forenoon and afternoon of same day.	1 0 0	1 1 6	
"	William Wild, mechanic, Heywood.	" "	Allowing two of his children to work forenoon and afternoon of same day.	0 5 0	1 2 0	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1883.						
Mar. 28	Mr. James Walneley, manufacturer, Great Harwood.	Sir William Henry Pender, Bart., John Butler Bowdon, Esq., and Mr. Cunningham, Petty Sessions, Blackburn.	Employing seven females after 6 o'clock in the evening.	20 0 0	4 8 2½	
April 19	Mr. Henry Garstang, manufacturer, Over Darwen.	Richard Eccles and James Shorrocks, Esqs., and the Rev. Philip Graham.	Employing a child forenoon and afternoon of the same day.	1 0 0	0 13 0	
"	"	"	Employing two young persons without having their names registered and without surgical certificates.	2 0 0	2 0 0	Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Mr. Thos. Garstang, manager to the above, Darwen.	"	Making a false entry in the register of young persons.	7 10 0	0 19 0	
1883.						
Dec. 11	Joseph Albinson, Stalybridge.	J. Galt, N. Buckley, and N. B. Sutcliffe, Esqs., Ashton-under-Lyne.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Oram.</i> Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	0 5 0	0 11 6	
"	"	"	Allowing his child to be employed before noon and after 1 p.m. of the same day.	-	0 8 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
1883.						
Mar. 1	Messrs. Hargreaves and Warhurst, Holingworth.	J. Chadwick and C. Woolnough, Esqs., Dukinfield.	Employing five females after 6 o'clock in the evening.	5 0 0	2 0 6	

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865. Dec. 23	Joseph Whittell, Bee-stone Mill, Stainland.	John Waterhouse, Esq., Saml. Waterhouse, Esq., M.P., Wm. Hy. Rawson, Esq., Evans Chas. Sutherland, Walker, Esq., and Col. Edwards, M.P.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Lukeman.</i> Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	£ s. d. 3 0 0	£ s. d. 1 14 6	The Magistrates directed the costs to be deducted from the penalty in this case.
"	"	"	Employing the same child without school certificate.	2 0 0	0 13 6	The Magistrates directed the costs to be deducted from the penalty in this case.
"	John Collings, stone deliver, Broomy Bottom, Stainland.	"	Allowing his child to be employed without sending him to school.	1 0 0	0 13 6	The Magistrates directed the costs to be deducted from the penalty in this case.
"	"	"	Allowing his child to be employed before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 13 6	The Magistrates directed the costs to be deducted from the penalty in this case.
1866. Jan. 13	James Garside, binder at Messrs. White- rights, Small Lees Mill, Ripponden.	John Waterhouse, Esq., Saml. Waterhouse, Esq., Wm. Hy. Rawson, Esq., Col. Edwards, and Major Stansfield.	Employing his child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	0 5 0	1 1 6	
"	"	"	Employing his child after 1 p.m. she having been employed before noon of the same day at another factory.	0 5 0	1 1 6	

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866. Mar. 10	Jeremiah Saville, Dyer, Hollins Mill, Warley.	John Waterhouse, Wm. Hy. Rawson, and Evans Chas. Sutherland Walker, Esqs.	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	£ s. d. 1 0 0	£ s. d. 0 13 6	
"	"	"	Employing the same child without school certificate for the previous week.	1 0 0	0 13 6	
1865. Dec. 7	George Heaton, Wells Mills.	T. P. Croeland, Esq., and Jno. Beaumont, Esq.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Beadon.</i> Employing his child and not causing him to attend school.	}	1 13 0	{ Withdrawn: the defendant having become bankrupt after the issue of the summons.
"	"	"	Employing same before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.			
1866. Jan. 23	Calverley and Beaumont, Holme Mill, Linthwaite.	Geo. Arncliffe, Esq., and Jno. Beaumont, Esq.	Employing a child without having his name registered.	2 0 0	0 10 0	
"	"	"	Employing same more than seven days without surgical certificate.	-	0 8 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
Mar. 8	John Beaumont, Woodman Inn, Pad- dock.	Lewis R. Starkey, Esq., and Wright Mellor, Esq.	Allowing his child to be employed in a factory both before noon and after 1 p.m. on same day.	0 10 0	0 8 0	
"	"	"	Neglecting to cause same to attend school.	0 10 0	0 8 0	
" 27	Joseph Mellor & Sons, Alma Mills, Nether- thong.	Geo. Arncliffe, Esq., and Wright Mellor, Esq.	Not producing school certificates for two children employed in their factory.	2 0 0	0 15 0	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.

RETURN OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866.						
Mar. 27	Joseph Mellor & Sons, Alma Mills, Netherthong.	Geo. Armitage, Esq., and Wright Mellor, Esq.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Beadon</i> —cont. Not procuring school certificate for a child employed in their factory.	£ s. d. - - 0	£ s. d. 0 7 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing a young person more than seven days without surgeon's certificate.	- - -	0 7 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing a young person more than seven days without surgeon's certificate.	1 0 0	0 8 0	
1865.			<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Oswald.</i>			
Dec. 21	Robert Stott, Brighton Mill, Oldham.	N. Worthington and I. Riley, Esqs., Oldham.	Employing five females after 6 o'clock in the evening.	5 0 0	2 5 0	
1866.						
Jan. 17	Geo. Mayall and Co. Mossley.	A. B. Wimpenny, J. R. Coulthart, Esqs., Kenworthy, and Abel Buckley, Esqs., Ashton.	Employing four females before 6 o'clock in the morning.	5 0 0	1 17 0	
Mar. 14	Jerry Andrew, Mossley	J. R. Coulthart and Abel Buckley, Esqs., Ashton.	Obstructing the Sub-Inspector in the execution of his duty.	5 0 0	0 12 0	
"	Sam. Taylor and Son, Lees.	" "	Employing five females after 6 o'clock in the evening.	5 0 0	2 6 0	

APPENDIX No. 2.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F.
Causing death - - -	7	-	7	2	5	-	19	2	21
Amputation of right hand or arm	3	1	4	1	-	-	7	2	9
Amputation of left hand or arm	4	2	3	-	-	-	7	2	9
Amputation of part of right hand	26	43	40	49	14	12	80	104	184
Amputation of part of left hand	25	18	27	28	13	4	65	50	115
Amputation of any part of leg } or foot - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - -	26	11	20	6	9	1	55	18	73
Fracture of hand or foot - -	23	24	29	33	22	7	74	64	138
Injuries to head and face - -	15	32	23	13	14	1	52	46	98
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - -	248	226	236	284	93	59	577	569	1146
Total - - -	377	357	390	416	170	84	937	857	1794

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F.
Causing death - - -	4	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	5
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - -	19	5	19	4	6	-	44	9	53
Fracture of hand or foot - -	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	3
Injuries to head and face - -	8	2	8	1	1	-	17	3	20
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - -	46	11	17	12	10	7	73	30	103
Total - - -	77	20	45	17	18	7	140	44	184

REPORT of ROBERT BAKER, Esq., Inspector of Factories,
for the Four Months ended 30th April 1866.

Factory Inspector's Office,

11th June 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE the gratification of reporting to you that, with a few exceptions, the factory laws have been fairly obeyed throughout all my extensive division. I find too, an increasing acceptability of the Factory Act Extension Act amongst the new works which have been placed under inspection since 1864, as well as that some of those manufacturers who objected to it at first, as an interference with their own government of their establishments, admit now its operation has assisted them in their views and wishes in regard to discipline; and they have consequently dismissed their former doubts and fears about it as untenable and needless.

I have enquired from time to time in passing through the pottery as well as textile workshops, of groups of work-people, men as well as women, and also of each separately, often in the presence of their employers, with a view of testing their true feeling with respect to the Factory Act, whether they would assist me in carrying out a measure whereby they should be enabled to return to their former condition of long hours and irregular work? But the answer has almost invariably been, first, an expression of alarm at the probability of such a thing; and then, in words "No! work after 6? never again if we can help it!" or to a similar effect. And no wonder, for some of the men and boys are enjoying out-door recreations of various kinds, including gardening; some are at evening schools; and the women and girls are devoting their leisure, in addition to their recreations, to acquiring that domestic education which is to be of so much use to them when the great business of life begins. Meanwhile, although I have not collected the numbers recently, though I have visited the schools, I have reason to believe that the number of short time children in the potteries is steadily increasing. They are described too, as continuing to shew the most satisfactory results in their education; more promising than the most sanguine expectations could have anticipated; they have become so much more respectful in their demeanour, are attentive to their studies, and so much better in every way for the "rubbing of elbows" with children

of a higher standard in general position and character, that it is quite full of promise for the future. It is to be desired that this "rubbing of elbows" should be more general in schools of every description; for there are some, where working children are kept separate from whole-day scholars, as if there might be some moral contagion amongst them. This I believe to be a mistake. There are few better copyists than half time children generally, and there is nothing into which children fall so soon, as the manners of their associates, whether for good or evil. But under discipline, the evil succumbs to the good in by far the largest proportion; and the readiest method of preparing ignorant minds for the power of civilization is by bringing them into immediate contact with it under careful supervision. This, at all events, is the effect which everywhere presents itself in the schools of the industrial districts. And though, it is true, the effect may be and is, in an inverse direction, where such minds are associated at work without any moral control, and is the bane of associated labour, yet in the schools, the master's eye and the mistress's care tends momentarily to obviate or prevent a result which would otherwise be so lamentable.

I have pleasure in quoting, from the last report of the Stoke upon Trent National Day and Sunday Schools, the following statement by the Rev. Sir Lovelace Stamer, Bt., who began what was to him an educational problem with misgivings, but who, with the usual candour and straightforwardness of his character, admits his forecasts to have been wrong. His testimony on the half system is most valuable, since it is the result of careful watching, and of the most scrupulous examination.

"The past year" says he "has witnessed the partial introduction of the provisions of the Factory Acts Extension Bill of 1864. At one time I thought that the effect of this measure would be to impose upon us the charge of a very rough and disorderly and unpromising class of children, to the injury of the character and discipline of the school; while, at the same time, to make up for their withdrawal during half the day from labour, I anticipated that a proportionate number of children would be withdrawn from their full attendance at school, and sent for half the day to work. In both these forecasts I am happy to say I have been wrong. The half timers, though in their working clothes (covered with the dust and clay of the manufactories) they appear outwardly to a disadvantage beside the others in their class, are quite as orderly and intelligent; they are generally more eager to learn than those whose whole time is spent in the school. On the other hand, the number of

these latter has in no way been diminished through an increased demand for the employment of children.”*

“I am not aware of any having been sent to work who would not have left the school at the same age before the introduction of the Act. I am therefore bound to declare my conviction that the application of the half-time system is likely to prove most beneficial to the health and to the education of the children in this district. With the modifications which may be necessary in order to make its working as little inconvenient as possible to the manufacturers, I have nothing to do. I am not qualified to express an opinion upon this part of the question. But I do earnestly hope that we may never go back from the wise principle now established, of alternating, in the case of young children, school and labour.”

So also I was very glad to learn from Mr. Sub-Inspector Buller, a few weeks ago, because it exhibits an improvement in parental feeling with respect to the education of their children that, he had found at one of his lace mills, where the master pays for the education of his half timers besides giving a donation annually of ten pounds to the school, several parents had sent their children to the factory, in order to obtain for them the benefit of schooling.

I regret to think that the state of the textile manufacturers, particularly Silk, is far from healthy, and that in many instances manufacturers are buying raw material from hand to mouth on account of the various uncertainties which now affect it; and that the promise of improvement for 1866, which in 1865 appeared likely to be fulfilled, is apparently further off than ever. The Woollen and Flax trades are also badly affected. The price of wool has fallen very considerably, and the purchase of it is therefore rendered a very doubtful operation so far as profit is concerned. With respect to flax, it is true the present crops in Ireland are said to be most assuring; but the gathering has to be waited for amidst possible events which the closest judgment is unable to forecast.

Mr. Sub-Inspector Darkin reports that “the conversion of private houses in Belfast into linen warehouses and the erection of fine new buildings for the like purpose, are

*The following statistics, taken from the registers of the boys' school, will show that the number of whole-timers has increased.

Average attendance, 1865,	-	-	248
Do. do. 1864,	-	-	191
			<hr/>
Increase in 1865,	-	-	57
Deduct average No. of half timers -	-	-	40
			<hr/>
Increase in average No. of whole-timers	-	-	17

“ going on as fast as ever. Then again, though most of our
“ mill owners are now spinning and weaving to stock, instead
“ of being able to complete their orders fast enough as was the
“ case when I last reported, spindles and looms are still being
“ added to those previously at work, as soon as they can be
“ got from the makers, and new weaving factories and
“ spinning mills are yet in course of erection. Wages too
“ continue high, a gentleman having just told me that he
“ was paying, in a small town a few miles from Belfast,
“ where there is no competition for workers, 1*l.* a fortnight
“ for spinners, with 2*s.* bonus, the latter being the usual
“ premium in all mills if the girls have not lost any time
“ during the preceding fortnight.”

With respect to Earthenware Works, I was lately appealed to by both masters and men, on the subject of the meal hour clauses of the Factory Act, and the difficulties the masters had in keeping clear of the law, in consequence of the oft-times wilfulness of the male adults in persisting to work during meal hours, and permitting females, young persons, and children to be with them whilst a manufacturing process was going on, which is forbidden. I mention it at this moment, to show how easy it is to frame difficulties in the application of the law which are really only imaginary, by persons who on the one hand are either anxious to have it as they wish, or will not give themselves the trouble to inquire about it; or, on the other, even by those who are most willing to obey the law, but are not thoroughly acquainted with its application.

The first letter I received was from a manufacturer of considerable position and importance as an employer, and was as follows:

“ We find that we as masters are subject to a penalty for acts over which we have virtually no control. Our men are nearly all piece workers, and have temptations to work during meal hours therefore. The boys all dine in the shop, and nothing short of locking them out would prevent it. Several men work in one shop sometimes, and no one could keep the other men's boys out. Any kind of supervision on our part is impossible. It would take a man much more than an hour to go to all the shops. In this difficulty what do you propose we should do? There seem only two courses open to us: to forbid work altogether during meal times under a penalty, or to shift the responsibility from our shoulders to the workmen for working during meal times when children are in the shop.”

The second was from the men, who put the case as follows:

“ There are four of us in one workshop, and one is 45 years old, another is nearly 20 years old, the other two are under

17 years. Our foreman contends that the two oldest have no right to work during any meal hours, according to the Factory Act and notice, and that we are in duty bound to see that the other two don't take any meal in the workshop during meal hours, should we be at work. We on the other hand contend that the Factory Act and notice don't apply to us male adults past 18 years; and we are at liberty to work our meal hours, providing we don't employ any woman, young person, or child to assist us in our labour. And should any woman, young person, or child remain in such workshop and take their meals whilst any process is being carried on, that we are not responsible for their presence. You will oblige me by explaining the Act and notice on this question."

The answer to both applicants was as follows in reply to the men: "The Factory Act and notice does not apply to men above 18 years of age; but the masters would be liable if any women, young persons, or children were taking their meals in any of the shops whilst the men were working. It is for this reason, and to enable the masters, workers, and inspectors, all to carry out this beneficent law in union, that the notice to which you refer has been posted. And the masters will be justified in locking the doors of every workshop during meal hours, if any work is persisted in by the men, whilst the women, young persons, and children are therein. It is true that men are at liberty to work meal times if they please; but inasmuch as the workshop is the master's, and the men have no right therein, except when he pleases, they ought not to risk the exclusion of the females and children from shelter during meal times in all kinds of weather, by a determination to work, an example which they might even thoughtlessly follow, and thus lead the masters and themselves into trouble and expense. If, however, the masters permit work during meal hours, I think the men are bound to assist them in seeing that nobody else works, who come within the meaning of the law."

"Rather let me advise the workers to enjoy their meal times, and the rest which they are intended to afford. It would cost them less every way in the end, prolong their lives, and enable them to work with more vigour and greater profit."

The Special Rules which have been already approved and supplied to the earthenware manufacturers on their own suggestions, seem at length to be fairly complete, and to be in extensive use. No prosecution has as yet arisen under them. I have been only asked, since the last were approved, for one other modification of them. But it appeared to me to be intended as so sweeping a measure, if it could be carried, and yet so devoid of applicative power, that I replied

to the manufacturers by saying that, though I would undoubtedly send their rules in if they wished it, and would write again and say so, I was bound to tell them that I could not recommend them for the Secretary of State's approval. From one of the applicants I had an answer to say "he should abide by the rules already in force;" from the other I had no reply, which I assumed to be tantamount to a similar determination.

Some of the domestic Tobacco Pipe makers complain of that part of the law which limits the women's labour to 6 p. m. and to 2 on Saturdays; but the complaint should rather be laid on the drunkenness of the men, who will not work in the early part of the week, whilst they are bound to a certain amount of produce before the week is over, and so either, diminish the product and the wages, or desire to prolong the labour of the females to unreasonable hours. If we could change their habits of self-indulgence to those of economical industry, the Act would be as great a blessing to these pipe makers as it already is to the factory workers. One of them assured Mr. Buller, that his boys do as much work as ever, notwithstanding they work shorter time than they used to do. A certain amount of work is expected from them in the course of the week; if they do not do it, they know that their wages will be "docked," and the result is that they work much more vigorously whilst they are at work.

With respect to the general application of the Factory Acts to the Potteries, a correspondent, perfectly well informed on the subject, writes thus:—"Mr. _____

"surgeon (not a certificated surgeon), expresses himself convinced of an improvement visible in the physique of the children, and on all hands it is admitted that the Act will, eventually, be a benefit to the potters. The responsibility of masters, in reference to half timers, is complained of; but the greatest evil is the irregularity of labour amongst the men, chiefly on account of their liability to drunkenness."

"The general persuasion is that this vice is on the increase, and fostered by the high wages, which enable the men to acquire sufficient in two or three days to gratify their lusts during the other days of the week, and there is too much truth in this. The dearth of child labour is still felt. The competition of the iron workers and collieries operates against the potteries; and it is hoped by them that the iron trade will be submitted to the same conditions by the Factory Act as they themselves are now subject to."

That there is an improvement in the physique of the young workers, but especially in their manners and conduct, not only

does the schoolmasters' and mistresses' evidence in my last Report exhibit, but nobody now would venture to deny it; and that the Act will benefit, is benefiting, the potters socially, the reluctance of the women to return to the old long hours, because of the time which the present system affords them to regulate their homes better, is sufficient proof. And whatever complaint may be made by the manufacturers as to their responsibility about half timers, they cannot but say that our endeavour has been, to make the parents and workmen share it equally with them, whenever the law contemplated that they naturally should divide it. Drunkenness is indeed the leading vice of which all but the drunkards themselves and they who supply them with drink, have too much reason to complain; and unfortunately it is to be attributed to high wages. And I repeat what I said in my last Report, and with a significance which I cannot render significant enough, justified by daily, I may say by hourly observation that, as "the power of wages strengthens without the controlling influence of a well directed education, we may be certain of what the result will be if that education is any longer neglected."

I suggested in my last Report that, in any further Act for the limitation of labour in other industries, increased powers should be given to us to compel the fencing off of machine gearing at least, in order as far as possible, to prevent the numerous accidents which it is our painful duty twice a year to record. I beg to repeat the suggestion on this occasion.

I am apprehensive there are Diseases, the sequences of factory labour, but varying very much according to the processes to which the workers are subjected, that have not yet had sufficient cognizance, but which really demand great attention. It can be easily imagined, that when females, young persons, and children are submitted to factory labour for the first time, to crowded and ill ventilated rooms and to ill placed machinery, often with stamina wholly unfitted to the risk of sudden and structural changes, that one or other of the structures may succumb even in a very short time, and the seeds of important functional ailments be sown which may be ultimately productive of the worst effects. At present there are no means, (or what there are are exceedingly limited,) by which these overstrains, or the effect of these adventitious circumstances upon their physique can be watched and regulated. But such observation and regulation are sequentially in correct factory supervision; for, without it, we may know of the introduction of healthy workers to labour, because for that the legislature has already cared,

but what becomes of the health afterwards there is not only no record but there is no consecutive and observant eye to notice when the structure begins to change, or the health to fail. Permit me to explain what I mean more particularly. If 100 children are submitted to factory labour, and two thirds of them are well kept, and the other third live upon coffee and herrings, or thin tea and bread three times a day and never taste flesh, in a very short time the destructive effect of labour and confinement upon the one third will be manifest. The under eyelid will become the colour of a china rose, the skin, so far as it can be observed for dirt, will be more transparent, and the whole frame indicate weakness.

If these children should go on working, they would become attenuated and enfeebled, but generally they do not; they either drop away from the fatigue which they are unable to sustain, or by changing the kind of labour, avoid the mischief which, from a persistence in it, would have been sure to accrue. Some of those that do remain become subject to distortion of the bones or to diseases which often end fatally. I desire to offer three examples, somewhat in illustration of the principle I am endeavouring to propound, and to show that there are such effects produced occasionally, and that they ought to be energetically guarded against; and to explain, that the mere admission of a child as physically fit to work at 8 or 13 for the time allowed in either case by law, is yet insufficient for that protection which the laws of vitality demand. On a recent visit to a cotton mill I saw an apparently healthy young girl of about 16 year of age piecing cotton between two spinning frames. From the position in which she stood whilst piecing, I was convinced that injury must be accruing to the spine as well as to the shoulder; and accordingly on further examination, I found there was an extensive curvature of the spine forming, and that the shoulder blade was pushed at least an inch upwards from the ribs. On measuring the alley in which she worked, i.e. the space between the two sets of spinning frames, the distance from spindle to spindle was only 21 inches, and as she had to curve her form to stoop to the spindles, it was morally impossible that she could work without this contortion of figure arising. I requested that she might be substituted for a child less in height than herself, which was complied with, this being all I could do to obviate what to her, in time, would have been so serious a disfigurement and disadvantage. A second case was that of a little half timer at school, with also a distortion of the spine and right shoulder from turning a wheel for a

rope spinner. Thirdly, I have been favoured with the following letter from a physician in Belfast illustrative of another form of disease to which some factory workers have recently become subjected.

"In Belfast a very painful malady is prevalent amongst the mill workers, more so, I think, than in many other places, I mean 'onychia maligna.' The subjects of it believe that it is mainly caused by having to stand, whilst at work, in the water which drops from the spinning frames. They usually get a knock upon one of their toes, which inflames; the nail drops off, and an exquisitely painful ulceration, with reproduction of a deformed nail follows. They are thrown out of work, and it is only by a severe operation and protracted treatment in hospital that they are finally cured. Last year, in the general hospital, out of 1,300 cases, we had 38 cases of onychia; several, however, were relapses."

I am about, therefore, to direct the attention of the mill-owners in Belfast to this peculiar cause of a disease, which certainly occurs more in Ireland than in England; because in the flax mills of the former most of the employes work barefoot all day, with the water from the flyers dropping upon them; whilst in the latter the feet are protected by shoes or clogs.

Universal Time.

My remarks, in my last Report, on the advantages of universal time for the United Kingdom, have been responded to from various quarters, but as yet not tangibly; and in a country like ours, in which time is everything, and the subordination of every moment to profitable pursuits the essence of commercial success, I am not a little surprised that such a subject should have escaped a more marked attention by general utilitarians.

In Ireland, the Belfast chamber of commerce brought the matter before the chambers of other districts in their own country, one of which disagreed with it, not for want of advantages, but because the difference in time would necessitate, among other things, earlier commencing hours.

They forgot however to mention, the earlier hours at which the workers would leave off. And doubtless there may be a good deal in such an argument where the general hours of labour and the habits of the people are so different to what they are in England; but nothing, I should think commensurate with the benefits accruable to the commercial public whether stationary or travelling. One of the most practical cotton spinning managers I know, thus writes about it from Stockport.

"I was pleased to see your proposition in the papers with regard to a system of correct time keeping throughout the country, and the remarks it gave rise to, and in no place more so than in our own town. We send a man up to the workhouse every Monday morning to ascertain the time, in order to set

our mill clock ; but I will be bound to say that, in nine cases out of ten it is wrong, for seldom or ever do we find it agree with the railway or the infirmary, the latter a beautiful time keeper. It would be a great achievement if some plan could be devised for the adoption of Greenwich time throughout the country ; and I feel it is only by such suggestions as those offered by yourself that the attention of the necessary parties can be drawn thereto. I do hope you will use your influence in this direction, for I know not a greater boon to all, than this would be, if accomplished."

Permit me then to re-echo the sentiments which the above letter expresses, and once more to recommend this simple but most important project to your attention, or to those in whose department such matters may more immediately lie, convinced as I am of its perfect practicability, and of its real usefulness.

The suggestions which I made in my last Reports respecting the repeal of certain Acts in connexion with the Factory Acts, and one or two alterations in the Factory Act Extension Act itself, have afforded the operatives in the several trades therein referred to, the strongest feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness. The bleachworkers are anticipating the time when by an uniform limit to the hours of work in all trades they may be enabled to enjoy equally with others the recreation which is necessary to their health, and the fustian cutters generally, are looking forward to the period when cutters in shops may be placed at no disadvantage with those not now under the law because they work at home.

The following certifying surgeons have been appointed since my last report:—

ENGLAND.

Castle Carey—I. S. Larcombe, Esq.
Barnet, Herts—C. H. Goodson, Esq.
Leek—J. J. Ritchie, Esq.
Rugeley—E. T. Tibbetts, Esq.

IRELAND.

Lurgan—Philip Russell, Esq., M.D.
Killinchy—John Ringford, Esq.
Ballymena—Abraham Kidd, Esq.
Tallaght—N. Seward, Esq., M.D.
Cushendall—P. P. Stone, Esq., M.D.
Clough—Robert Cromie, Esq.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ROBERT BAKER.

*The Right Hon.
the Secretary of State
for the Home Department.*

&c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURN of PROSECUTIONS for OFFENCES against the FACTORIES REGULATION ACTS, in the DISTRICT of ROBERT BAKER, Esq., Inspector of Factories, during the Six Months ended 30th April 1866.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Cases, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Feb. 3.	Wm. Moston, Lymm	Lymm, before Jas. Stanton, & Sebastian Badley, Esqrs.	Employing a child before noon and after 1 o'clock p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 7 6	
"	Peter Jackson (operative), Lymm.	"	Employing his own child before noon and after 1 o'clock p.m. on the same day.	0 5 0	0 3 6	
"	Mary Butterworth, Lymm.	"	Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	1 0 0	0 15 0	
" 27.	Nantwich Mill Co. - -	Nantwich, before T. F. Twenlow and Thos. Brooke, Esqrs.	Employing eight young persons without surgical certificates.	4 0 0	3 14 6	Four cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Mar. 19.	Thos. & Jos. Heston, Lostock, near Bolton.	Bolton, before Robert Heywood and Alfred Barnes, Esqrs.	Employing a young person without a surgical certificate.	2 0 0	2 10 6	
April 14.	Globe Twist Co., Bolton.	Bolton, before the Mayor and John Cannon, Esq.	Employing four young persons without surgical certificates.	4 0 0	1 15 0	Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 19.	Muggleston, Whittaker, & Co. (Headcliffe).	Bury, before Colonel Hutchinson and O. O. Walker, Esq.	Employing 15 females on Good Friday - -	15 0 0	10 15 0	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865. Dec. 15	Hugh M. Beck and Co., flax spinners, Belfast.	Edw. Orme, Esq., R.M., and W. T. B. Lyons, Esq.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Dorkin.</i> Employing 10 females in reeling after 6 p.m.	£ s. d. 3 0 0	£ s. d. 1 1 0	It happening that the offence was committed in the absence of both Mr. Beck and his manager, I withdrew seven cases on payment of costs.
1866. April 10	Jno. Hand and Sons, flax spinners, Belfast.	Jno. C. O'Donnell, Esq., R.M., & Edward Orme, Esq., R.M.	Employing five young persons on Good Friday in cleaning machinery.	4 0 0	0 12 6	The offence having been committed not only in the absence of the principals and manager, but against their orders, I withdrew three cases on payment of Court Fees.
"	Blackstaff Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited.	" "	Employing five females on Good Friday in cleaning machinery.	4 0 0	0 12 6	The offence was committed through a misconception, consequently I withdrew three cases on payment of the usual costs.
1865. Dec. 16	Anthony Moores, mule spinner at Messrs. Fernley & Bradley, Millgate, Stockport.	Wm. Roby Barr, Esq., Mayor, William Williamson, Esq., Stockport Petty Sessions.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Steen.</i> Allowing a child to work between the fired and traversing part of a self-acting mule while in motion.	-	0 5 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 18	John Woodcock, mule spinner at Messrs. Ash-ton Bros. & Co., Flowery Field, Hyde.	James Ogden, Esq., Charles Woolnough, Esq., Hyde Petty Sessions.	Allowing a young person to work between the fired and traversing parts of a self-acting mule while in motion.	-	0 13 6	Dismissed.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865. Dec. 30	Thomas Mould, Swinscot	J. Goodwin Johnson, Esq., Francis Wright, Esq., R. Hayston, Frank, Esq., at Ashborne.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Haydon.</i> Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	£ s. d. 0 5 0	£ s. d. 0 8 0	
"	Thomas Wilshaw, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	
"	William Wood, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	
"	William Clegg, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	
"	Hannah Tomlinson, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	
"	James Pegg, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	
"	William Banks, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	
"	Joseph Tarr, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	
"	Charles Hollis, Mayfield.	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	0 5 0	0 8 0	Defendant absconded.
"	William Gould, Swinscot	"	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	-	0 7 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1883. Dec. 30	Thomas Flitcroft, Wood-caves.	J. Goodwin Johnson, Esq., Francis Wright, Esq., R. Hayston Frank, Esq., at Ashborne.	Neglecting to send child under 13 years of age to school.	£ s. d. - - 0	£ s. d. 0 7 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
1886. Feb. 12	J. Eyle, Sunderland St., Macclesfield.	J. Clarke, S. Barton, Wm. Ashhead, Esqs.	For not providing a register of young persons.	- - -	0 13 0	Cases were withdrawn on payment of costs, and upon Mr. Eyle giving a satisfactory explanation and producing the missing register.
"	"	"	For not registering the names of six young persons	- - -	1 10 0	
1885. Nov. 16	Livesley Powell & Co., Hanley.	William Moore & Thomas Keeling Esqs., Hanley.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. May.</i> Employing two children without registration.	2 0 0	1 1 0	One information withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing a child more than seven days without a surgical certificate.	- - -	0 7 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three children before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	- - -	0 10 6	One information withdrawn on payment of costs. The other two cases were adjourned in order that two workmen might be summoned as the actual offenders.
"	"	"	Employing four children without school certificates.	2 0 0	2 0 0	Two informations withdrawn on payment of costs.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Nov. 16	Harriett Baker, Hanley	William Moore & Thomas Keeling, Esqs., Hanley.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. May</i> —continued. Neglecting to cause her child to attend school.	0 5 0	0 16 6	
"	Ann Poole, Hanley	"	Neglecting to cause her child to attend school.	0 5 0	0 17 6	
"	John Riley, Hanley	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	-	} Informations with- drawn.
"	James Brian Hanley	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	-	
" 30	James Best & Co., Hanley	William Moore and Samuel Keeling, Esqs., Hanley.	Employing three young persons and two children without registration.	2 0 0	2 1 0	Four informations with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three young persons and two children without surgical certificates.	2 0 0	2 1 0	Four informations with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing two children before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	1 7 0	One information with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing two children without school certificates.	1 0 0	1 0 0	One information with- drawn on payment of costs.
"	Thomas Chadwick, Hanley	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 10 6	} These workmen were summoned by Messrs. Livesley Powell & Co. in the two cases ad- judged from Nov. 16.
"	Enoch Poole, Hanley	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 10 6	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1865.						
Dec. 15	Ralph Malkin, Fenton	J. E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Fenton.	Employing two children before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	£ s. d. 1 0 0	£ s. d. 0 19 6	One information dismissed.
"	Moses Smith, Fenton	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	0 5 0	0 15 0	
" 20	Lowe and Abberley, Longton.	J. E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Longton.	Employing three children without school certificates.	2 0 0	1 9 0	One information withdrawn.
"	"	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 14 6	
"	Brough Bros. & Co., Longton.	"	Employing four young persons and children without registration.	2 0 0	2 7 6	Three informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three young persons without surgical certificates.	2 0 0	1 16 6	Two informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing four children without school certificates.	1 0 0	2 7 6	Three informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three children before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	1 16 6	Two informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	William Bryan, Longton	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	0 5 0	0 15 0	
"	Michael Morris, Longton	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	-	} Adjourned and subsequently withdrawn on proof of regular attendance.
"	John Donlan, Longton	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	-	

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1866.						
Jan. 25	Smith & Hodnett, Brierley Hill.	Isaac Spooner, Esq., Stipendiary, Brierley Hill.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. May—continued.</i> Employing three young persons and children without registration.	£ s. d. 2 0 0	£ s. d. 2 11 0	Two informations withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing a child without a surgical certificate.	2 0 0	0 17 0	
"	"	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	0 17 0	
"	"	"	Employing a child without a school certificate.	1 0 0	0 17 0	
"	Henry Hibbs, Brierley Hill.	"	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	-	0 17 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
Feb. 1	William Ibell, Tunstall	J. E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Tunstall.	Neglecting to cause his child to attend school.	0 5 0	-	
" 2	Mary Pattison, Newcastle-under-Lyne.	J. E. Davis, Esq., Stipendiary, Stoke-on-Trent.	Permitting her child to be employed before noon and after 1 p.m. on the same day.	1 0 0	1 0 6	
1866.			<i>Informations laid by Mr. Earnshaw.</i>			
Feb. 15	Alfred Gardner, Crew's Fold, Lucifer Match Maker, near Bristol.	L. B. Clutterbuck, Clerk, Chas. W. Davy, Clerk, H. A. Palmer, Esq., C. Castle, Esq., J. W. Palmer, Esq.	Not registering Mary Ann Walker, laid under 7 & 8 Vict. c. 15. ss. 9. & 52., Sch. B.	2 0 0	-	Had been repeatedly spoken to and cautioned about these breaches.
"	"	"	Not lime washing, laid under 7 & 8 Vict. c. 15. s. 18. Sch. B.	-	1 19 6	Withdrawn.
"	"	"	Not fencing steam-engine and fly-wheel, laid under 7 & 8 Vict. c. 15. s. 21. Sch. B.	-	-	Withdrawn.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1896.						
Jan. 3	William Walker, Victoria Mill, Colne.	W. H. Wood & T. T. England, Esqs., at Colne.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Bailey.</i> For employing a young person under 16 without a surgical certificate.	£ s. d. 2 0 0	£ s. d. 0 14 6	
April 9	William Kay, spinner, employed at Messrs. Cowban's Factory, Spring Gardens.	T. H. Whitaker and J. Heela, Esqs., at Burnley.	For allowing a young person to work between the fixed and traversing parts of a self-acting mule.	-	0 8 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.

APPENDIX No. 2.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	3	2	1	-	1	-	5	2	7
Amputation of right hand or arm	-	1	4	-	-	-	4	1	5
Amputation of left hand or arm	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
Amputation of part of right hand	4	14	14	21	3	1	21	36	57
Amputation of part of left hand	2	7	11	16	1	2	14	25	39
Amputation of any part of leg } or foot - - - }	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	3
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	7	5	10	3	5	1	22	9	31
Fracture of hand or foot - -	7	11	14	15	2	1	23	27	50
Injuries to head and face -	5	4	4	6	1	-	10	10	20
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - }	74	61	116	83	27	7	217	151	368
Total - -	102	106	178	144	40	12	320	262	582

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	6	-	4	-	-	-	10	-	10
Injuries to head and face -	2	-	3	-	2	-	7	-	7
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enume- } rated above - - - }	15	3	3	2	-	-	18	5	23
Total - -	23	3	11	2	2	-	36	5	41

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